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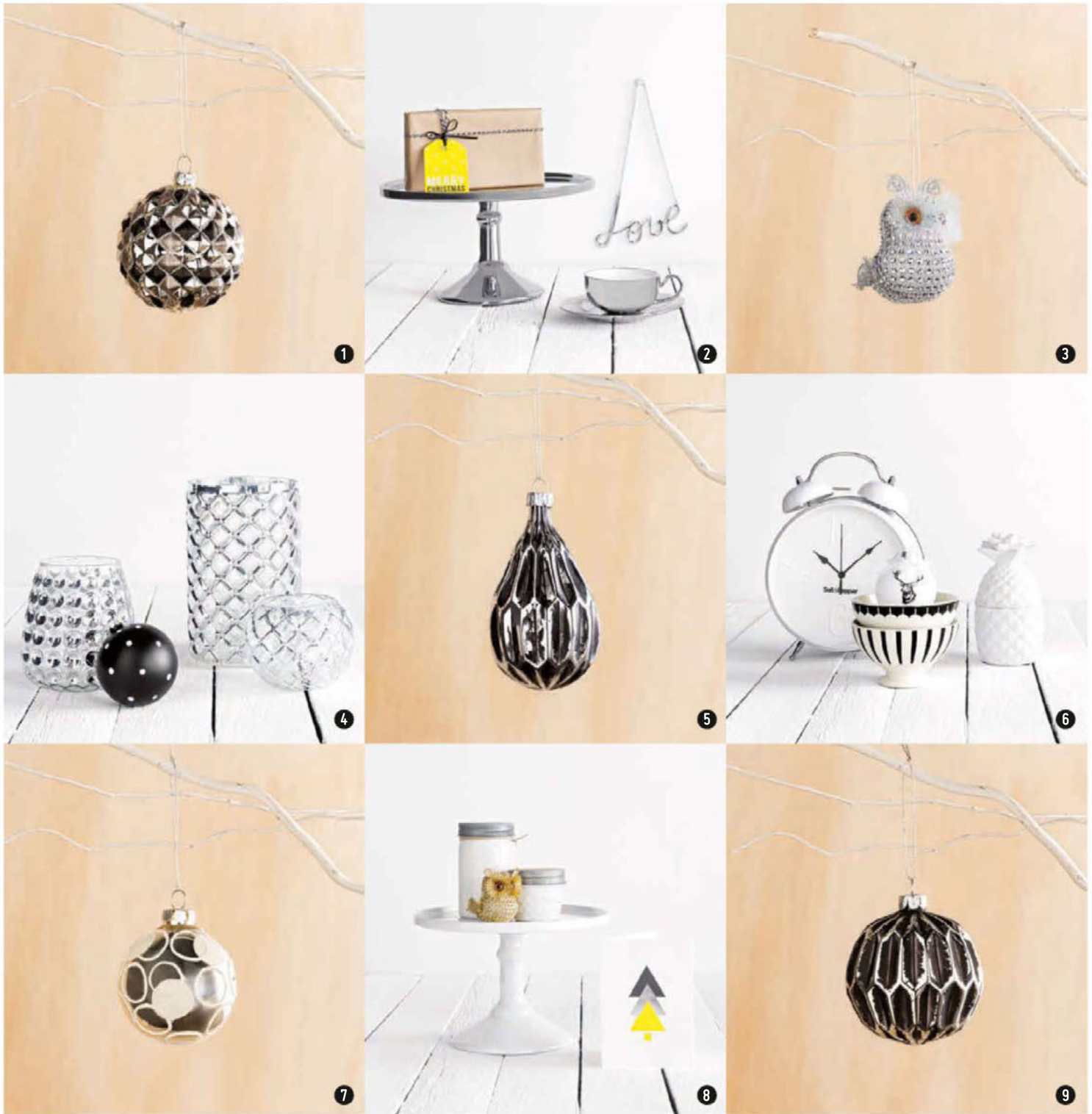
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CHRISTMAS MAGIC

WE DIPPED THIS ISSUE in glitter love to get you revved up for Christmas. With metallic being so on trend, Christmas decor is going to be a cool industrial affair this year. Bring it on! Copper, brass, silver and gold – from candlesticks to decorations (see page 107); bonbons to Christmas trees (love the tree on our cover? It's easy to make, see page 112) – everything is shiny, shiny and oh so glittery.

I know it's the most hectic time of the year and we can all get stressed wondering if we'll survive the mad, crazy dash to the finish line but my message to you is: when you open the box of Christmas tree lights to discover they are tangled and the decorations a little tired – smile. Stop, breathe, try and enjoy the

delight of Christmas – stocking up on new decorations or making your own, decorating the tree with the kids, buying gifts you'd love to get yourself and having fun with wrapping presents – you'll be amazed at the magic that happens when you get into the spirit. Then relax – give yourself a break. Have a chilled champers, rip the paper off your pressies, wear the silly Christmas hat and eat a second helping of pav.

As they say on Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter etc, "To the ones who still believe in dreams: chase them until you're out of breath. Then, keep running." And hey, have a Happy Christmas.

Deborah
@deb_bibby



HOT OFF THE PRESS!
Use the free **viewa** app and scan this page to see all the cool stuff Deb's discovered this month.



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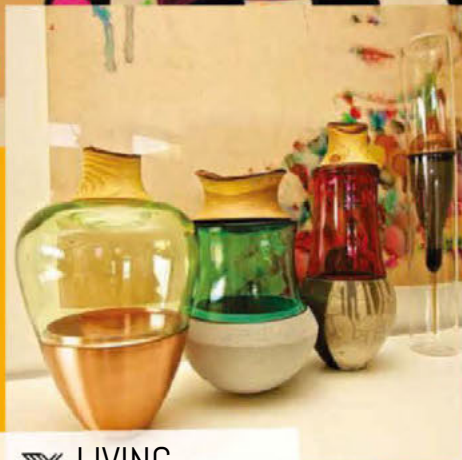
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cover

As good as gold

Celebrate the festive season in shimmering style by pairing glittery metallics with cool neutrals. Flip to page 107 for more ideas.

Reflect well

Coco rectangular **mirror**, \$627, Vavoom Emporium. 80cm x 160cm.

Chic comfort

Bank **sofa** in Linen with Brass legs, \$2649, Blu Dot.

Golden girl

Eva **armchair** in Parchment, \$1720, Globe West.

Standing tall

Ester & Erik "C" **candles**, from \$18.50 each, Top3 By Design.

Sew shiny!

Glitter **cushion** in Gold/Black, \$69, BoConcept. 43cm.

Worth its weight

Discipline "Roule" **tray** in Brass, \$332, Top3 By Design.

Geometric base

Elle "Eiffel" **coffee table** in Brass, \$1490, Globe West. For stockists, see page 175.

Concrete look

Kemra "Tilt Slab" **wallpaper**, \$159.95 a 10m roll (72cm wide), Zanui.

Brushed appeal

Replica Lustre 10-bulb "Agnes" **chandelier** in Brushed Brass, \$2300, Lucretia Lighting.

COVER GET THE LOOK

'Tis the season to sparkle and shine, so fill your home with **glitter love** and celebrate the holidays in style

CHRISTMAS IS THE ONE time of year that you can go OTT with glittery metallics – and, no, we're not talking tinsel. Go for gold (or silver, copper or bronze) in your furniture and homewares, layered over a neutral base to keep it cool. Then, just because it's the silly season, let loose with a jar of glitter – you can always vacuum it up later! Whatever your approach, fill your home with Christmas sparkle and celebrate in style. ✨

text elle lovelock | photography felix forest | styling jackie brown
hair & make-up wayne chick/the artist group, using MAC cosmetics

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Editor Deb reveals all the stylish new stuff
she has discovered this month **p9**

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

Watch a step-by-step vid on how to make
the cool embroidery-ring baubles **p59**

EXTRA PICS

Can't get enough of the fabulous Xmas gift
guide? Check out more pics here **p70**

TAKE THE CAKE

Learn how to cut a cake horizontally
with an easy step-by-step guide **p144**

VICTORIA SPONGE RECIPE

An easy recipe for a classic sponge cake that
you can decorate to your heart's content **p153**

ENTER TO WIN

A Panasonic airconditioner and
real living bedlinen package **p176**

EXCITING NEW FEATURES:

polls, quizzes, more competitions, photobooth, social media sharing



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Kate, NSW.

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paper star decoration



@CRAFTHUNTER
cute wall hanging



@LORENA_BELLA_DESIGNS
flower & twig wreath



@SIMILLASTORM
copper & antler frame



@TARAVICTORIAL
handpainted baubles



@LOVETHEOCCASION
glitter-dipped feathers



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STYLISH, INSPIRATIONAL, CLEVER

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A young French family inject traditions from the old country into their new home in Sydney's Manly

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Gorgeous creations you can make to add festive cheer to your place

White & fluffy

Virginie Fontes created this Christmas display with woollen pompoms from the store Honeybee Homewares, which she used to own and run. *Flip the page to see more of her home in Manly, Sydney.* →

Twinkle toes

A pair of sparkling shoes from Mamapapa in Avalon were a gift to Virginie from her French friends. For a similar reindeer hide rug try Nordic Fusion.

JOYEUX NOËL

A French couple maintain their **Christmas traditions** in their Sydney home



Je ne sais quoi

French native Virginie gravitates towards a French-country style with industrial features. She has translated this idea into her Christmas decorations, too. →

Cool, calm and collected

A deer head from Mamapapa is perfect for hanging toys and scarves in son Lucas's room.



Prep time

The high benchtop in the kitchen ensures any meal preparation paraphernalia is kept out of sight of guests.



Playful touch

Virginie made the tree from hessian sacks – baby Sacha can't break or pull anything. The star is from Blanc-Léger.



Made with love

A circular garland from Mamapapa decorates the tree that Virginie made for Christmas.

EVEN WITHOUT THE ADDITIONAL shine of Christmas decorations, it is hard to imagine the home of Virginie and Stephane Fontes looking anything other than chic. But before the couple, originally from France, bought the two-bedroom apartment in Sydney's Manly more than six years ago it was in a dire state. Virginie was keen to renovate and, with the advent of Christmas, give it a festive look.

PRIME ATTRACTION "The place was a wreck, and needed a complete makeover," Virginie says. "However, it ticked a lot of boxes." The couple were looking for something to renovate with a private courtyard, which is uncommon in apartment blocks. This place also had access to a pool and parking. And it was just a short walk to Manly's beaches. The apartment was also close to Honeybee Homewares, a shop in Fairlight that Virginie owned and ran for many years. Today she is the distributor for a French bag range, Tampico.

HOLD THE CHAMPAGNE Before any guests could be invited over – even for a celebratory Champagne – major work was needed on the home. "It was so old that we had to do renovations before moving in," Virginie says. The couple opened up the kitchen wall adjacent to the living room and installed a new kitchen. The flooring was also changed, with the change adding a distinctive French character to the home. Replacing the internal doors added a layer of sophistication, too. Other changes included updating both bathrooms and painting the entire apartment. →

Magical world

For a different look, Virginie turned her artists' painting frames around. "I love the colour of the linen and the wood."

who lives here?

Virginie and Stephane Fontes and their two children, Lucas, 9, and Sacha, 15 months

Favourite space "I love the courtyard with its eucalyptus tree and all the palm trees around it. Its a lovely place all year round," Virginie says.

All I want for Christmas... "I am dreaming of a paper sculpture by Australian artist Anna-Wili Highfield."

New business Virginie has just launched www.1style1concept.com – an online store of her finds from searching through many *brocantes* (the French word for flea markets) in her native France.



Floral touch

Keeping a wreath simple yet rustic with the addition of zinc stars adds plenty of interest. The secateurs are from Heaven In Earth.

Star bright

One of Virginie's favourite pieces of furniture is the vintage oak trestle table from Manon Bis. It has seen plenty of family meals and celebrations. The Tolix stools are from Thonet while the pendant light was bought from Habitat in France. →

"WE NORMALLY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE WITH A SPECIAL DINNER WITH FRIENDS," VIRGINIE SAYS. "ON CHRISTMAS DAY WE LIKE TO HAVE A CHRISTMAS BRUNCH"



UNDERSTATED SOPHISTICATION The couple have two young boys and wanted a home that was liveable as well as stylish. They also wanted to ensure the materials used throughout were sturdy enough to withstand tenants in case they decided to take an extended break in Europe. Consequently, they chose materials such as stainless steel for the kitchen benches and composite wood for the deck – it's a material that doesn't need any maintenance, so suitable for lively festive celebrations, too.

CHRISTMAS TOUCH Just as Virginie loves renovating homes – she's keen to start another project – she enjoys pulling out her collection of Christmas decorations to create a festive atmosphere for her two sons, Lucas, nine, and Sacha, 15 months. As they don't have family in Australia, there are some traditions that they are keen to maintain, namely eating foie gras and duck as well as *bûche de Noël* (Yule log) and delicacies from the south-west of France, where they hail from. The decorations are all in keeping with Virginie's French country aesthetic – lots of linen and natural materials. It's about striking a balance between the best of two worlds. ●



Silent night

Schleich animals form a nativity scene in a stick house given as a gift to Virginie from some of her closest French friends.

Modern country

Virginie is a fan of painting furniture and sticking with a calm palette of slubby neutrals. She decorated a branch with pompoms for a take on a Christmas tree. The storage shelf came from her shop. ➔





Al fresco dining

The courtyard was one of the reasons Virginie and Stephane bought the apartment. The space under the eucalyptus tree gets used regularly, especially at mealtimes.

Special details

Gold cutlery is brought out for special occasions, such as when guests come over for Christmas brunch. The "douceur" tag comes from Blanc-Léger; it translates as "sweetness" or "tenderness". →



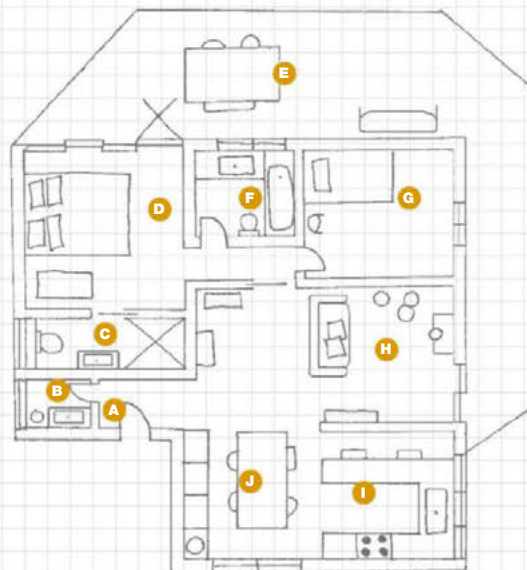


FINISHES

FLOORING Larch Vulcano floorboards in **Brushed White Oil (A)**, \$236.50 a sq m, Mafi. **WALL PANELLING** Easycraft "EasyRegency" pre-primed wall lining panel in **Cream (B)**; 1.2m x 90cm, \$23.98 each, Bunnings. **INTERIOR PAINT** Dulux Wash & Wear in **Taupe White Quarter (C)**, \$74.95 for 4L. Haymes Interior Expressions in **Bond White (D)**, \$67.95 for 4L. For stockists, see page 175.

KEY

A Entrance **B** Laundry **C** Ensuite **D** Master bedroom **E** Outdoor deck
F Bathroom **G** Bedroom **H** Living room **I** Kitchen **J** Dining



Boy zone

The bottom part of Lucas's bedroom is painted a darker shade, cocooning the bed. The rusty star is from Ruby Star Traders.



floorplan & still-life styling christina banos
photography chris waines/waines&waiton (lifestyle shots)

Shared zone

Baby Sacha shares a space with his parents at night, with his cot painted to fit in with the rest of the home. A tongue-and-groove panel was added to the room to give it more character.



Lunar glow

Titan 1 **pendant light** in Putty Grey, \$448, Dunlin. 36cm diameter.

Bright lights

Mara II drum **pendant** in Linen, \$79.95, Beacon Lighting.

Chrissy bling

Glitter Kraft **star ornament** in Silver, \$12 for a set of 3, West Elm. 9cm each.

VIRGINIE'S MOODBOARD

Textured whites and muddy tones with an industrial twist and a hint of sparkle to complete the look

Off the rack

4040 Locust metal **wall rack**, \$98, Urban Outfitters.

Stretch the truth

Lincoln swing-arm **wall sconce**, \$375, Emac & Lawton. Arm stretches to 45cm.

Moonshine

Rocket **stool** in Antique Gunmetal, \$44.95, Super A-Mart. 46cm.

On the ropes

Nolan glass **cloche**, \$44.95, Freedom. 18cm x 28cm.

Summer florals

Fresh **flowers**, \$25, Harris Farm Markets.

Family dinner

Norden extendable **table** in Birch, \$449, Ikea. Extends from 2.41m to 3.03m.

Sweet stripes

Caroline X-small **cushion** in Grey, \$24.95, Provincial Home Living. 25cm.

Pink sparkles

Toms "Bright Multi Glitter" **shoes**, \$55, Hart & Heim.

Tamed clutter

Small wicker **basket** in White, \$9, from Howards Storage World.

Gold standard

5-piece **cutlery set** in Gold, \$34, West Elm.



Replica David Trubridge Coral Pendant
\$289



Replica Matali Crasset
Stick Pendant Light
\$549



Replica Kids Eames Table + 2 Chairs Package
~~\$213~~ **Sale \$169**



Replica Xavier Pauchard
66cm Stool with
wood seat
~~\$149~~ **Sale \$99**



Replica Arne Vodder
Tallboy
\$1,195



Industrial Coffee Table
\$295



Replica Finn Juhl FJ Sideboard
\$1,195



Retro Turning Stool
\$149



Replica Xavier Pauchard Bar Table
\$595



Replica Sticotti Dining Table
\$795



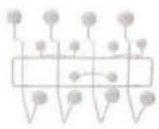
Replica Tuukka Halonen Pilke Wide Pendant
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Skygarden Luminaire 60cm
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'The Dots' Hanger
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Replica Hans Wegner PP85 Table
\$695



Replica Erik Buch Bar
Stool 76cm
\$249



Replica Marcel Wanders Park Sofa
\$1,395



Replica Acapulco Sofa
\$549



Replica Kids Eames
Rocker
\$59



Replica Sean Dix Rectangular Table 160cm
\$495

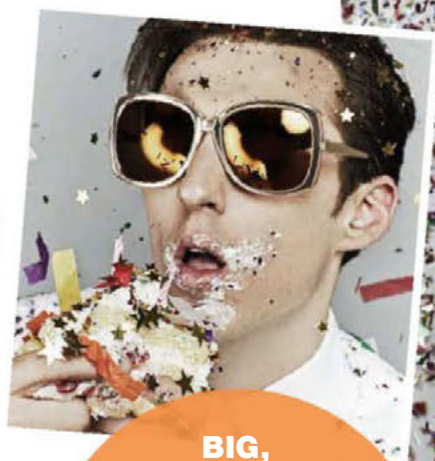
FRENCH BRAND LIGNE ROSET'S NEW RANGE OF LIGHTING – A PERFECT BALANCE OF FORM AND FUNCTION – INCLUDES THE LUNA ROSSA CEILING LIGHT. INSPIRED IN SHAPE AND COLOUR BY THE MOON, EACH LIGHT IS RUSTED, THEN WAXED, AND FEATURES A WHITE LACQUERED INTERIOR.

Light the way
Ligne Roset "Luna Rossa" ceiling light (80cm diameter), \$2925, Domo.com.au

THEY MAY LOOK DAINTY, BUT THESE SWEET LITTLE RINGS PACK A SMALL PUNCH IN THEIR GLORIOUS SPARKLY RANGE OF GOLDS.



Ring a rosie
FROM LEFT **Rings**: Traced Bud, \$190, Sarahandsebastian.com; Reef Knot, \$109, Pinkloulou.com; Four Trinity, \$210, Sarahandsebastian.com; Chunky Top Knot, \$169, Pinkloulou.com



BIG, BOLD, BRIGHT

With all this glitter being thrown around, you'll need a flash pair of sunnies to tone down the glare. **Karen Walker's** latest range **Celebrate** is just the ticket with unisex styles – all \$399 – in glam shades of gold. Karenwalker eyewear.com



FAVE FINDS

Creative shops and new products that are **cool & covetable** – and sometimes worth a splurge!

Channelling summer
FROM LEFT **Essie nailpolish** in Ruffles & Feathers, Roar Orange and Haute In The Heat, \$16.95, Essiecolours.com.au

Ocean blues, sea-mist creams, beachball pinks and sunset oranges – treat your finger- and toenails to bold, nature-inspired hues with Essie's limited-edition Summer Collection nailpolish. The creamier, faster-drying formula comes with a thicker, more user-friendly brush.



THE MESMERISING COLOURS OF AN OIL SLICK INSPIRE THIS CLUTCH DESIGN. PART OF ASOS'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION.

Shimmer shimmer
Oil Slick foldover clutch, \$36, Asos.com.au

MAISON BALZAC HAS PARTNERED WITH ARTIST AND FLORIST DR LISA COOPER TO CREATE 1642, A CANDLE WITH A RICH, EVOCATIVE SCENT WITH CLASSICAL OVERTONES. IT RETAILS FOR \$59. MAISONBALZAC.COM →

text diana prichard & karlie verkerk

loving

A TRULY QUIRKY COLLABORATION: FASHION LABEL HOUSE OF HOLLAND HAS JOINED FORCES WITH MR MEN AND LITTLE MISS FOR A FUN AND QUIRKY RANGE OF CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES. PERUSE THE RANGE AT HOUSEOFHOLLAND.CO.UK



Mr Fashionable

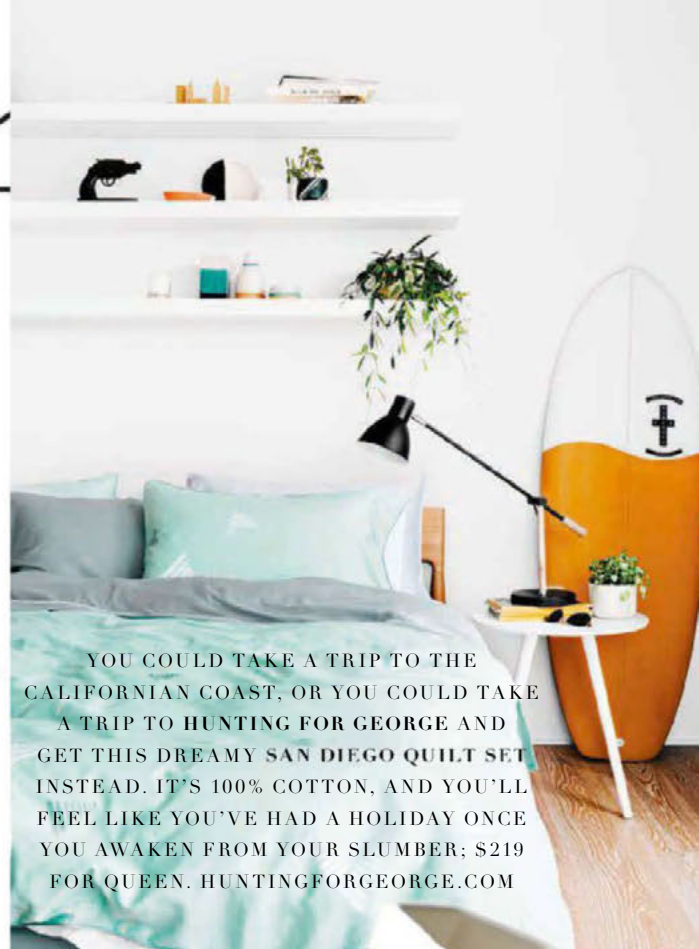
LEFT Mr Men Bump clutch, \$294.

BELOW Mr Men glasses, made to order.



Little Miss Pretty

ABOVE Mr Men shirt, \$340, and Mr Men Gingham skirt, \$422.



YOU COULD TAKE A TRIP TO THE CALIFORNIAN COAST, OR YOU COULD TAKE A TRIP TO HUNTING FOR GEORGE AND GET THIS DREAMY SAN DIEGO QUILT SET INSTEAD. IT'S 100% COTTON, AND YOU'LL FEEL LIKE YOU'VE HAD A HOLIDAY ONCE YOU AWAKEN FROM YOUR SLUMBER; \$219 FOR QUEEN. HUNTINGFORGEORGE.COM

FAVE FINDS

and some **more...**



*Inspired by mossy woodlands and Scandinavian summers, the **TREEHOUSE** and **MIDSOMMAR** scented soy candles from **TRIBE** will ignite childhood memories of climbing trees in the forest or sitting in a field of wildflowers; \$90 each. Wearetribe.com*

HORSING AROUND

Capturing the raw beauty and almost human-like qualities of the horses on her family's Argentinian farm, Victoria Aguirre of **Pampa** has created a range of prints to go with the brand's handwoven rugs; from \$265 for 60cm x 40cm. Pampa.com.au



DIP A TEABAG, DIP A CHOCOLATE BIKKIE, OR SIMPLY DIP YOUR LIPS INTO THESE COOL **GEO DIP MUGS** FROM **FEW AND FAR**. THEY'RE \$17 EACH AND ARE AVAILABLE IN OCEAN-INSPIRED COLOURS: NAVY, TEAL OR MINT. FEWANDFAR.COM.AU



Blue hues
Geo Dip mugs in Navy Teal and Mint, \$17 each, [Few And Far](http://FewAndFar.com).



POP ON YOUR BIKINI, LAY OUT A BEACH TOWEL AND PUT THE KETTLE ON! THE **DAYDREAMER TEAS** FROM THE **SEVENTH DUCHESS** WILL TRANSPORT YOU TO THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS BEACH DESTINATIONS WITH ONE SIP. MADE IN OZ; \$16.95 FOR 100G. THESEVENTH DUCHESS.COM →

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Experience the richness of our new Lipton Yellow Label finest blends today.



Viva vivacious
Mister Zimi "Diego/
Sundancer" reversible
quilt cover, from,
\$189 for double,
Kipandco.net.au
Other bedlinen available.

DOWN MEXICO WAY

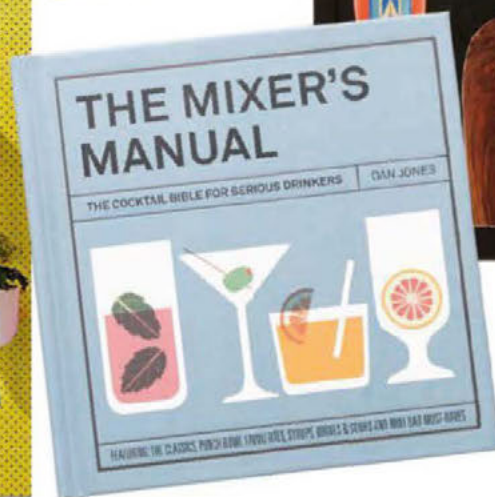
The Diego and Sundancer
bedlinen prints are part of
Kip & Co's first collaboration with
trailblazing Melbourne-based fashion
label Mister Zimi. Inject some
Mexicana festiva into your bedroom
and home with these bright
and joyful patterns and
colours.

FAVE FINDS

and some **more...**



DRAB TO FAB Indoor/outdoor hanging pots go super-stylish with the round ceramic **Moon pots** in Citrus Matt, Charcoal Matt and White Matt. Handmade, they come with a 45cm stainless-steel cord. They are \$99 each, from Patersonandsteel.com.au. 27cm diameter, 10cm deep at base.



THE COTTON ON FOUNDATION HAS LAUNCHED SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT **MANNYA TRADING CO.**, COMPRISING A SPECIALTY COFFEE BRAND. THE 250G BAGS OF COFFEE ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IN SELECT COTTON ON STORES FOR \$9.95. COTTONON.COM.AU



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ABOUT 10CM DIAMETER.



**SURF CRAFT MAPS THE EVOLUTION OF
SURFBOARDS, FROM WOODEN PIECES SHAPED BY
HAND TO MASS-PRODUCED FIBREGLASS VARIETIES.**

Hang 10

Book: *Surf Craft:
Design And The Culture
Of Board Riding* by
Richard Kevin (The
MIT Press, \$47.95).

Bar's open (left)

Mix it, shake it, stir it, drink it! Check out the all-in-one cocktail bible. *The Mixer's Manual: The Cocktail Bible For Serious Drinkers* book by Dan Jones (Hardie Grant Books, \$19.95).



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IT'S A WRAP!

Whether you're looking to spoil a loved one or simply treat yourself, our new arrivals are set to provide inspiration for your gift giving this holiday season.

THIS PAGE: 1. ALEXA **ARMCHAIR** \$795 2. ALI MCNABNEY STEVENS **DRESSING UP PRINT** FROM \$329
 3. PEACH BIG DOT **THROW** \$220 4. WOVEN+ SOHO LOUNGE **CHAIR** \$435 5. WOVEN+ WEBBER COFFEE
TABLE \$495 6. BUNNY FABRIC SEAT **CHAIR** \$285 7. VENICE 3 SEATER **SOFA** \$1795 8. WOVEN+ RAVEL
 STACKABLE ARM **CHAIR** \$245 9. GOLD & AQUA DIAMOND **CUSHION** \$159 10. EDINA **SIDE TABLE** \$195
 11. TANGO **COFFEE TABLE** \$495 12. SOURCE Y-HOPE **BENCH** \$495





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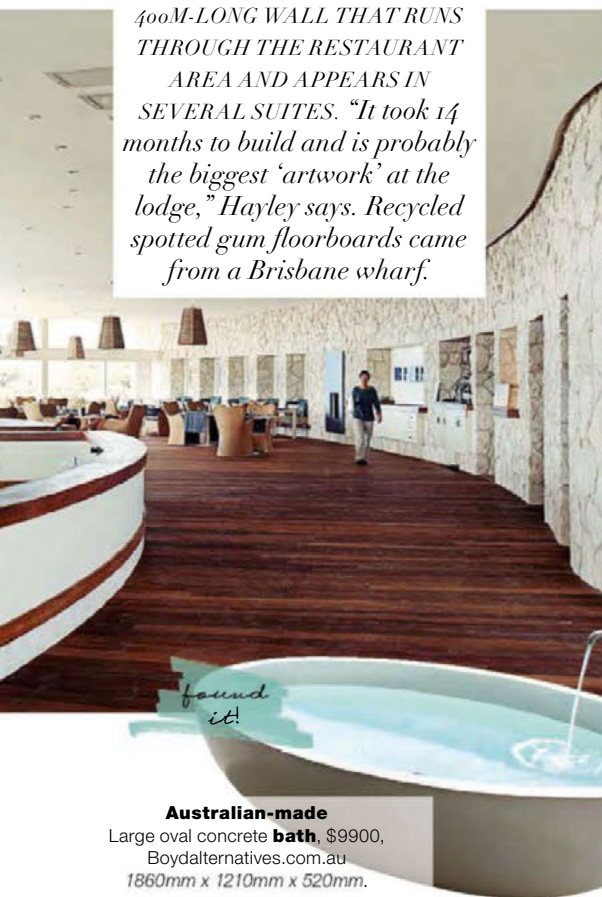
THIS PAGE: 1. XYLEM **CLOCK** 'A' \$149 2. XYLEM
CLOCK 'B' \$149 3. ASBURY **PENDANT LAMP**
\$249 4. UNIVERSO POSITIVO FRUIT **BOWL** LOW
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FORTE ROUND TIMBER DINING **TABLE** \$795
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SOUTHERN OCEAN LODGE, on SA's Kangaroo Island, was designed by Max Pritchard (Maxpritchardarchitect.com.au), who spent his childhood on the island, with interiors by owners Hayley and James Baillie. "We wanted to create an organic, luxurious and contemporary Australian feel," Hayley says.

KANGAROO ISLAND LIMESTONE FEATURES ON THE 400M-LONG WALL THAT RUNS THROUGH THE RESTAURANT AREA AND APPEARS IN SEVERAL SUITES. "It took 14 months to build and is probably the biggest 'artwork' at the lodge," Hayley says. Recycled spotted gum floorboards came from a Brisbane wharf.



SOUTHERN OCEAN LODGE ECO RETREAT / KANGAROO ISLAND

SPACE CRUSH

Hayley Baillie shares the design features behind her **5-star luxury lodge**

Sculptural functional

The Jeannie bench is by Adelaide-based, contemporary furniture designer Khai Liew.



At ease

The line of 21 suites, which "float" on the landscape, feature king-size beds and sunken lounges.



Vroom vroom!

real living travelled to KI for the launch of the new Audi A3 Cabriolet, a great way to tour the island.



"WHEN GUESTS DRIVE FROM THE AIRPORT THEY DON'T SEE THE OCEAN, THEN WHEN THEY WALK THROUGH THE DOORS OF THE LODGE THEY GET THEIR FIRST GLIMPSE – THE VIEW HAS A WOW FACTOR," HAYLEY SAYS.

"The design of the interior spaces was to complement the incredible ocean and coastal landscapes."

Bathed in nature

Glass walls allow for mesmerising views. Joinery is made from spotted gum; floors are Isernia limestone from Artedomus.



ONLY A LITTLE BUSH WAS CLEARED TO BUILD THE LODGE, WHICH IS SURROUNDED BY NATIONAL PARK. "WE WANTED TO LEAVE A MINIMAL FOOTPRINT," HAYLEY SAYS.

Australian-made

Large oval concrete **bath**, \$9900, Boydalternatives.com.au
1860mm x 1210mm x 520mm.

Southern Ocean Lodge, Hanson Bay Road, Kangaroo Island, SA. (02) 9918 4355. Southernoceanlodge.com.au

Solitude & comfort

"You can appreciate how spectacular Mother Nature is while cocooned in luxury," Hayley says.



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loving

Colour code

"I like to build a look on white, black, grey, navy and tan, then add colour in soft shades of blush pink, powder blue and seafoam."

Green pop

"I like succulents in all different sizes," Aubrey says. Concrete pots from Popplant.com.au

Modern boheme

"My perfect outfit is all about simple, comfortable and effortless pieces, with interesting details."

Inspired touch

Aubrey enjoys her ever-evolving inspiration board. "And having a creative space with framed words is helpful to remind you about your goals and why you started."

Sunny nights

Fave things include Maison Balzac "Le Soleil" candles.

THE LOVE ASSEMBLY

BLOGWATCH

Meet the **creative minds** behind our fave blogs. This month it's Aubrey Daquinag

Instagram hotel

Sydney's 1888 Hotel features on Aubrey's Instagram. Take a selfie in the frame, tag the hotel and your pic goes up on the selfie wall, she says.

Fashion faves

"Zimmermann, Isabel Marant and Magali Pascal for creating beautiful, quality pieces in the modern, luxe, bohemian feel that I love."

Best seat in house

"Simple is best: this Freedom 'Studio' sofa is on my list – I love the Scandinavian style in light grey and birch legs."

Sandal love

"Flat sandals in tan are my favourite, like these K. Jacques 'Barigoule' sandals."

"THELOVEASSEMBLY.COM is an online destination for you to wander through a world where travel meets style," says Aubrey of her blog.

Why did you start your blog?

"I've always believed in chasing your dreams; creating a life that you love. I wanted to create and build an online destination from what I loved to do most – take photos, travel, create content, tell stories, share tips and most importantly, inspire."

What's your study/work background?

"I knew from an early age that I wanted to be part of a creative industry. When studying fashion business at FBI Fashion College in Sydney, I immersed myself in all the internships I was interested in. I also completed a diploma in marketing communications. I worked in PR and digital marketing, with clients in fashion, lifestyle and hospitality."

You also blog for Condé Nast

Traveler? "Condé Nast Traveler in New York approached me earlier this year about the relaunch of their website and said they loved my

work and would love to have me on board as a blogger. I'm super-excited to be working with the talented team and producing the quality kind of content we both strongly believe in. We also like to collaborate on social media platforms – check out our Pinterest board 'Jet Set Style with The Love Assembly' for travel-style inspiration."

How do you come up with posts on your blog?

"At the beginning of every month I brainstorm and lock in editorial ideas and stories. Because travel is a big part of my blog, stories revolve around this topic most of the time."

How important is photography?

"It's a significant part of what we do; not only is it what I love, but one of the main reasons why our readers love coming back. I worked really hard in the first year to make sure our aesthetic was established properly to be able to align with brands and work on partnerships that held the same kind of quality content and visual appeal."

Any tips for starting a blog?

"Choose a niche topic, create a distinctive aesthetic and find your unique voice to really stand out." 

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Hanging garden

The Aje Brisbane store opened this year, taking its interior style cues from the flagship Sydney store.

ADRIAN & EDWINA / AJE
FASHION DESIGNERS

WHO ARE YOU?

Find out what makes **favourite creatives** tick

Carry it off

For all things interior, Edwina turns to furniture/homewares store Coco Republic. Doris tray (43cm), \$255.

Future perfect

Sarah Burton for Alexander McQueen inspires Edwina, for her "avant-garde, magical" designs.

FASHION DESIGNERS ADRIAN NORRIS & EDWINA ROBINSON

THIS SUMMER, BEST FRIENDS BEHIND FASHION LABEL AJE WILL BE FOCUSING ON THEIR NEW STORES (CHECK THEM OUT IN SYDNEY, BRISBANE AND MELBOURNE) AND PREPARING TO LAUNCH A NEW COLLECTION, "I MARRIED ADVENTURE", INSPIRED BY US EXPLORER OSA JOHNSON.

A-J-E.COM.AU

What did you want to be when you were a kid? **Adrian:** "An artist."

Edwina: "An actress, then a TV reporter. In hindsight, I realise I always had a huge fascination with clothing, which I got from my grandmothers, who were both so well-dressed, elegant and refined."

Tell us about your family?

Adrian: "I'm very close to my mum and my sister – in fact, I think of them when designing clothes and always try to create pieces that they would love to wear." **Edwina:** "My parents grew up in Sydney but come from big, NSW farming families. They love antiques and old worldly delights mixed with modern-day conveniences. I've been influenced by their love of woods, leathers, fabrics and textures."

What is the style of your home interior? **Adrian:** "Laid-back

seafront-style, with a luxe edge."

Edwina: "Earthy, sophisticated, French modern meets Australian beachy, with a mid-century twist."

What's your best decorating tip?

Adrian: "Think classically simple, with bold highlights – for example, natural decor lifted by a shocking pink vintage armoire. Also, dedicate the bulk of your budget to the kitchen – it's the hub of the home." **Edwina:** "Buy pieces on your travels. A home should be filled with pieces that tell a tale, or bring back a great memory."

Where do you find inspiration?

Adrian: "The coast always inspires me as I grew up there. Our latest collection was inspired by the pattern on an ancient Greek urn." **Edwina:** "The most inspiring place I've ever walked into was the Venice Biennale. Not only are the spaces themselves inspirational, but they're filled with inspirational art from all around the world."

What's advice to wannabe fashion designers? **Adrian:** "Creativity will get you in the door, but hard work will keep you there. Prepare to put your 'all' into what you do." ☺

Fave colours

Adrian loves deep, ocean-y blues; Edwina, for clothing, likes black.



Drawing table
Effortless glamour, tough femininity and dishevelled elegance sum up the Aje look.

Swell ride
Adrian's Chanel surfboard is one of his most treasured possessions.

Sunny days
Both Adrian and Edwina spent their childhood on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.



A for awesome

Adrian would gift a classic Aje striped tee to a woman and a cookbook to a guy.

Peddle boat

Adrian and Edwina holiday with friends in the Maldives.



Divine inspiration

Edwina loves the work by American fashion photographer Steven Meisel.

Lusting after

On Adrian's wishlist is the Timothy Oulton "Globetrekker" coffee table (\$5895, Coco Republic). "It would really suit my home," he says.

interview john mcdonald | photography felix forest (store); gettyimages.com (alexander mcqueen pic); justin smith (portrait); steven meisel for italian vogue (fashion pic) illustration aje illustrations



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LOCALS ONLY

This husband and wife duo focus on “simple, honest, **handmade designs**”

WE RUN A FURNITURE and homewares business called Mr & Mrs White. The furniture is designed and made by Mr White, and the textiles – cushions and bedlinen – are designed by Mrs White and made by local sewers.

THE BUSINESS STARTED out as a hobby and developed into a passion for handmade products. Nathan's background is in boatbuilding, so he put the skills he learnt from the boat industry into designing and producing furniture. And my background is in graphic design.

OUR FACTORY AND SHOWROOM is in Brookvale in Sydney's Northern Beaches. We were inspired by a recent trip to Brooklyn, NY, where hundreds of factories have been converted into shops, showrooms and homes. Brookvale has become our “Brooklyn”.

WE ARE INSPIRED BY simplicity. Leonardo da Vinci said that “simplicity is the ultimate sophistication”. I guess we are continually aspiring towards that. Anything natural and neutral inspires us – crumpled linen, the smell of leather, a pile of timber ready to be milled.

WE ARE CURRENTLY refining our Box chair. It has been a long time coming, so we are excited to release this one.

IN THE FUTURE we are hoping to extend the showroom with a coffee bar. All in good time! ☺

ONE



Brass Block **lamp**, \$210, Mr & Mrs White. Made from form ply with brass fittings.

TWO



Beam **bed**, from \$2090 (frame only), Mr & Mrs White. Available in LVL, blackbutt or American oak.

THREE



Linen **pillowslips** in White/Flax, \$45 for one, or \$80 for pair, Mr & Mrs White. Also available in White.

[**ABOUT MR & MRS WHITE**]
SASHA, AKA MRS WHITE, **DESIGNS THE TEXTILES** WHILE NATHAN, OR MR WHITE, **MAKES THE FURNITURE** – HENCE THE NAME MR & MRS WHITE. THE CREATIVE COUPLE DESCRIBE THEIR STYLE AS **MINIMAL, CLEAN AND NATURAL.**
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Use the free *viewa* app and scan
this page to view the Howards
Christmas Gift Guide.



HANDY WOMAN

For a Chrissy tree that lasts, make a **plywood variety** – we've got two styles to inspire you, so flip the page



You will need

- 4 x 1200mm x 897mm x 7mm plywood sheets
- Tape measure
- Spirit level or long ruler for drawing straight lines
- Pencil
- Circular saw or handsaw
- Masking tape
- Paintbrush & paint or spray-paint →

Δ project cost \$11.16
(+ paint)

project & styling kerrie-ann jones | styling assistants chloe smith & kristy chidiac | photography amanda prior

PROJECT Plywood Christmas trees

Step 1 To make the largest tree (1200mm high), measure and mark a same-size triangular shape on each of two plywood sheets. To make the medium-sized tree (600mm high), measure and mark two same-size triangular shapes on a third sheet. And to make the smallest tree (400mm high), measure and mark two same-size triangular shapes on a fourth sheet.

Step 2 Using a circular saw or handsaw, cut out all the shapes on the four plywood sheets.

Step 3 For the largest tree, measure and mark where you're going to cut the slots on the two identical shapes. On one, make the mark from the top of the shape to the centre, and on the other, make the mark from the bottom of the shape to the centre. Repeat this step for the medium and smallest tree shapes.

Step 4 For the largest tree, saw each slot, then slot the two shapes together to form the 3D tree. Repeat this step for the two other trees.

Step 5 Use masking tape to mark a line about one-third of the way down from the top of the tree, as a guide for painting.

Step 6 Use paint or spray paint in your desired colour to paint the tip of your trees. 🎨

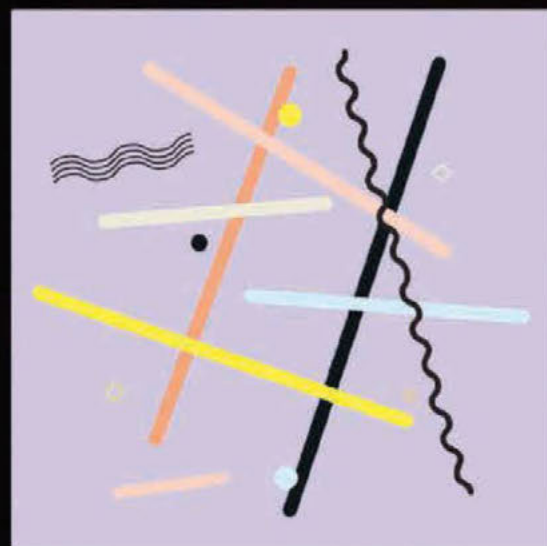
PROJECT To make the plywood trees we used four **plywood sheets** (each 1200mm x 897mm x 7mm), \$17.79 a sheet, Bunnings.

THE REST PREVIOUS PAGE Chicago 2-seat **sofa** in Earth Weave, \$999, Life Interiors. Lovett coffee **table** in White, \$299, Freedom. **ON SOFA** Penny Round **cushion covers** (37cm) in Gold & Silver, \$59, Castle.

ON COFFEE TABLE Whites Outdoor jute **twine** plant tie, \$5.97 for 100m roll, Bunnings. For similar round glass **vase** (holding **Chrysanthemum "Pom Pom"**) try fish bowl, \$25.75, eBay. Tassel **garlands** in Gold, Silver & White, \$38.95 for 3m length, Bickiboo Party Supplies.

ON FLOOR For **giftwrap**, we used A3 paper. **Twine**, as before. Dipped glass **baubles**, \$19.95 for 6, Typo. Ascot floor **rug** in Grey (2.3m x 1.6m), \$399, Freedom.

THIS PAGE Chicago 2-seat **sofa**, as before. Lovett coffee **table**, as before. **ON SOFA** Blanky **throw** in Blue/Charcoal, \$79, and 4 Pom Pom velvet **cushion cover** in Yellow (43cm), \$49, Castle. Watercolour **cushion** in Fluoro Pink (50cm), \$125, Bonnie And Neil. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Atelier **puzzle piece**, \$595 for set, Medium Shell Wrap **vase** in Lemon, \$175, and Tall Band **vase** in Lilac (flowers as before), \$185, Dinosaur Designs. **ON WALL** Similar **washi tape** (star): MT washi tape, \$34.95 for 10, Paper2. Electric Disco **art print** (90cm sq), \$210, I Need Nice Things. **ON FLOOR** **Giftwrap**, as before. Felt **ribbon**, \$10.95 for 5m roll, Paper2. Handmade Moroccan shag **rug** (1.5m x 1.4m), \$380, Dear September. For stockists, see page 175.



△ project cost \$71.16 (+ paint)





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a real living **SUPER A-MART** solution

MODERN MINIMAL



This issue, **real living** stylist Jackie Brown has teamed up with **Super A-Mart** to demonstrate the tricks to creating a cool and contemporary living space.

What are the key elements of

a modern minimal look? It's all about clean lines, neutral tones and classic shapes. Keep everything simple!

What's the starting point for this room?

Here, it's the Seattle corner lounge suite. In a living room I always start with the lounge because it's the biggest item in the room and the piece of furniture you'll use the most. You want to choose something super comfortable, and with a style, size and shape that suits the space.

How do you build the look from here?

I added the classic coffee and side tables, which I decorated sparingly with some great design books and minimal homewares. A cool floor lamp behind the sofa, a textured rug and some simple art prints add atmosphere – you want a few sculptural accessories, but nothing too fussy or overly decorative.

What colours and materials work best

with this look? Natural hues, blacks and greys are the best, with some white to freshen up. As for materials, with such a neutral backdrop, you need some texture and dimension, so go for leather, timber, linen and blackened steel.

How do you accessorise a modern

minimal look? Minimal is the key word here! Let the shapes of the furniture create the drama in the room and save yourself the dusting. A couple of bold feature items, like a pair of large vases, or a sculptural candelabra will do the trick.





IN THE
NEXT ISSUE
Festive Feast

DO MORE WITH LESS

JACKIE SHARES HER TOP TIPS
FOR DECORATING A MODERN
LIVING ROOM ON A BUDGET:

- Look to the past for inspiration – mid-century designers had the modern minimal look down pat!
- Don't overdo it. You want to go for quality not quantity. Clean shapes and classic materials are key.
- Stick to a restrained colour palette. Limit yourself to three or so complementary colours and add visual interest through textures.
- Get the designer look for less with a range of cushions and homewares from Super A-Mart.

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From left: Retro **floor lamp**, \$169.95. Summit large staggered **bookcase**, \$139.95. Argan **vases**, \$49.95 (small), \$69.95 (large). Seattle corner **lounge suite** in Charcoal \$2,599.95, includes co-ordinating **cushions**, also available in Smoke. Sanctus rectangle **coffee table**, \$199.95. Sanctus nest of 3 **tables**, \$269.95. Casa **rug** in Cream, \$199 (as seen above).



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\$2,600



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EASY XMAS DIYS

From bottle candleholders to embroidery-ring baubles, get out the glue and scissors to create these **cool Christmas crafts**

PROJECT 1

3D-STAR DECORATION

YOU WILL NEED To make one star you will need 6 x witches-hat training cones (22.5cm high; you can buy them from Ozfitsports.com.au for \$2.61 each); plywood offcut; drill and 5mm-drill bit; butcher's twine; scissors; white spray-paint; gold paint; paintbrush.

MAKE 1. Place one witches hat on top of the plywood offcut. At the base of the witches hat, drill one hole on each corner. Repeat with remaining witches hats. **2.** Line up 4 witches hats next to each other. Using twine, tie the witches hats together in a line using the holes. Once the line of witches hats is tied together, loop the first and last hats around to create a "box" shape with the bases. Tie the hats together with twine. **3.** To create a star shape, tie a witches hat to the remaining holes. **4.** Hang star outside using another piece of twine. Spray with white spray-paint. Allow to dry, then apply a second coat. **5.** Decorate your star with gold paint using a paintbrush. →



the stars look great scattered on the floor, too

PROJECT 2 GOLDEN CROCHET

YOU WILL NEED Spool of brass wire (try Aemetal.com.au or other jewellery-making suppliers); 3.5mm crochet hook; scissors; tealight candleholders/vases/blown-up balloons

MAKE 1. Visit the following web link to learn how to crochet a circle: **Wikihow.com/Crochet-in-the-Round**. It has very clear step-by-step videos that will have you crocheting a circle in no time. **2.** Crochet as many brass-wire circles as you like. For those what will be hanging decorations, leave the last string long so you can hang them. For tealight candle or vase bases, just mould the brass circles to the bases of the vessels. Obviously a vase base will need to be made from a much larger crochet circle. You could also wrap a large crochet circle around a blown-up balloon and hang.





PROJECT 3 WOODEN-RING WREATH

YOU WILL NEED 12 x wooden rings (4 x 11cm diameter, 4 x 75cm diameter, 4 x 55cm diameter; available from craft stores like Spotlight or Lincraft); 1m rope; copper picture-hanging wire (available from hardware stores); wire cutters; baubles (we used paper and glass ones); string.

MAKE 1. Place rings on a flat surface and create a circle (the order of the sizes should be: large, medium, small, large, small, medium, large, medium, small, large, small, medium, as shown above). **2.** Use copper picture-hanging wire to tie the rings together. **3.** Loop the rope around one of the rings. Wind some copper picture-hanging wire around the end of the rope and the rope to secure them together. **4.** Tie colourful baubles to the inside of the rings using string, then hang your wreath on the wall or at your front door.



PROJECT 4 BOTTLE CANDLEHOLDERS

YOU WILL NEED Empty glass bottles (cleaned and labels removed); masking tape; glass cutter (available from hardware stores); sandpaper; bucket; tealight candle; safety glasses and gloves.

MAKE 1. Use a strip of masking tape to mark where you would like to cut your bottle. **2.** Use a glass cutter to scratch a straight line around the top of your masking tape. (It is designed to only “scratch” the glass, you don’t have to press too hard.) **3.** Fill a bucket with cold water. Light the tealight candle. Wearing safety glasses and gloves, carefully hold the bottle above the candle, lining up the scratch with the flame. Rotate the bottle so all of the scratch has been heated by the flame. **4.** Dip the heated bottle into the bucket of cold water. The glass should expand and break neatly where you have scratched the line. If it doesn’t, repeat “step 3” and “step 4” until it breaks. **5.** Discard the bottom half of the bottle. Use sandpaper to smooth any sharp edges on the top half. Pop in a candle and, voilà!



PROJECT 5 PADDLEPOP DECOR

YOU WILL NEED Wooden paddlepop sticks; craft glue; double-sided tape.

MAKE 1. On a flat surface lay out the paddlepop sticks in any shape or word you like. **2.** Use craft glue to stick the overlapping parts of the sticks together. Allow glue to dry. **3.** Stick creations to the window using small pieces of double-sided tape. If you’d like, you can paint the sticks in different colours. →

the perfect Christmas tree
for a small space

PROJECT 6 HOLEY TREE

YOU WILL NEED 1.8m x 1.5m double-primed canvas (available from art stores like Spotlight or Eckersley's Art & Craft); ruler and pencil; scissors; compass; string; baubles; masking tape.

MAKE 1. Lay the canvas sheet on the floor white-side down. Use a ruler and pencil to mark a Christmas-tree shape (as shown) that measures 1.2m wide (at the bottom), and 1.5m high.
2. Carefully cut out tree shape with scissors.
3. Lay the tree flat on the ground white-side down. Use a compass to draw different-sized circles in any pattern you like. **4.** Carefully cut out circles with scissors. **5.** Hang tree with a piece of string and suitable fixture, then hang assorted baubles inside the circles using string and masking tape.



PROJECT 7 EMBROIDERY-RING BAUBLES

YOU WILL NEED To make one bauble you will need 1 x embroidery hoop; wool or metallic string; transparent double-sided tape.

MAKE 1. Take the outer ring off the embroidery ring. Apply a strip of double-sided tape around the outside of the smaller ring. **2.** Tie the wool or string around the hoop and start winding around the hoop to create any shape you like. **Circle:** Start your first wind at about one third of the hoop, and wind clockwise 1cm from the one before, until you are all the way around. Wind one more circle, placing the wire directly next to the previous wind. **Star:** Use a pencil to divide the hoop into 5 equal parts. While winding, skip one part every time to create a star shape. To create a more detailed star (left), wind every other loop clockwise next to the one you did before. When done, place the larger hoop around the smaller hoop and tie up with string. 



DIY STEPS
Use the free **viewa** app to scan this page for a step-by-step on winding the hoops.



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TOP ROW Men's boater shoes in black (\$100); Set of 3 porcelain canisters (\$111.95); Best teacher in the world tea towel (\$24.95); Shave kit (\$220).

MIDDLE ROW Dressed without a smile print (from \$27); Rose gold & leather watch (\$149); Wave the flag cushion cover in mint (\$77); Cockatoo print (from \$25).

BOTTOM ROW Men's Paris boxer briefs (\$44.99); South Beach beach tent (\$164); Christmas pudding tea towel (\$25); Modèle print (from \$55).

shopping

SEE IT, LOVE IT, BUY IT!

Pop the Champagne!

Kate Spade New York "Gold Dots" coasters, \$34.95 for 24, and Holiday "Pop, Fizz, Clink" card, \$39.95 for 10, Outliving. Veuve Clicquot sparkling rosé Champagne, \$94.90, Dan Murphy's. Glitter from Spotlight. Flip the page for more fab gifts. →

62 Xmas gift guide!

We've rounded up the best Chrissy buys – from pretty purses and cute candles to tech toys and blokey buys

POP, FIZZ, CLINK!





2

XMAS GIFT GUIDE
Funky fashionistas, happy hipsters and beach babes – we've
got the best **presents for every personality**

1

GLITTER VIXEN

3

THIS PAGE 1 Good Times **print**, \$29.95, Opus Design Co. **2** Geometric **vase** in Gold, \$79, Urban Couture. Paper **straws**, \$6.95 for 25, Typo. **3** **Glitter** from Spotlight. **OPPOSITE PAGE 4** Hex office **storage boxes** in Bronze, Silver and Gold, \$47 for small, \$50 for medium, \$53 for tall, Urban Couture. Triangle **earrings**, \$55, Collector Store. Meteor **necklace** in Gold, \$143, Koskela. **5** Secrid "Mini" **wallet** in Champagne, \$120, Top3 By Design. **6** Jonathan Adler "Pop" **candle** in Champagne, \$69.96, Outliving. **7** 2015 A5 **diary** in Purple Glitter, \$19.95, Typo. **8** Chanel **print**, \$29.95, Opus Design. **9** Native Union "Monocle" **speaker** in Copper, \$79.95, Outliving. **10** Metallic flat **purse** in Copper, \$15.90, Citta Design. **11** Polaframes magnetic **frames** in Gold, \$24.95 for 6, Until. **12** Copper **tin**, \$29.95, Opus Design Co. **13** Glyph leather **tablet sleeve** in Copper, \$69.90, Citta Design. **14** Danish and Scandinavian style **pendant light** in Gold, \$299, Urban Couture. **15** Native Union "Switch" **speaker** in Black/Copper, \$249.95, Outliving. **16** Gold **belt**, \$59.95, One French Summer. **17** Luggage **tag** in White Gold, \$45, Papier D'Amour. **18** Small Metallic **bag** in Bronze, \$28, Uashmama. **19** Punched leather **wallet** in Bronze, \$89.90, Citta Design. →





GADGET GURU

THIS PAGE 1 22 Design Studio concrete **table clock**, \$150, Top3 By Design. **2** Native Union "Belt" 1.2m **cable**, \$46.95, Outliving. **3** Concrete **pencil**, \$75, and Concrete rollerball **pen**, \$80, Top3 By Design. **4** Felt 35 **clock** with Gold hands, \$249.95, Until. **5** Native Union "Clic" wooden **iPhone 5 case** in Black, \$59.95, Outliving. **6** Lexon "Mini Dolmen" **radio** in Bamboo, \$149.95, Hunting For George. **7** Mixed Tape **wallpaper** (background), \$69 a sq m, Rebel Walls.

OPPOSITE PAGE 8 SoundTrue around-ear **headphones** in Mint, \$229, Bose. **9** Retro **phone dock & handset** in White, \$49.95, loco; holding **iPhone 5s**, from \$749, Apple. **10, 12, 17** Kakkoi "Wow Bling" bluetooth **speakers** in Purple, Neon Orange and Green, \$89.95 each, Until. **11** Nuop "Film" **salt & pepper shakers**, \$19.95, Outliving. **13** Kakkoi "Loop'd" wireless **speaker** (includes USB and audio cable, shown), \$89.95, Until. **14** Lexon "Tykho" AM/FM **radio** in Red, \$139.95, Hunting For George. **15** V01EL **watch** in Gold/Black, \$200, Void Watches. **16** Areaware alarm **iPhone dock** in Beech, \$60, Top3 By Design. →





1

HANDSOME HIPSTER

THIS PAGE **1** Hammerpress "Letterpressed" postcards, \$4.95 each, Paper2. **2** Marshall "Major" headphones in Brown, \$199.95, Outliving. **3** Mason cocktail shaker, \$50, The SuperCool. **4** Izola brass comb, \$35, Collector Store. **5** Snapshot pencil sharpener, \$21.95, Outliving. **OPPOSITE PAGE** **6** Bicycle horn, \$16.95, Opus Design. **7** Triumph & Disaster "Shearer's" soap, \$10, The Design Hunter. **8** *Shake: A New Perspective On Cocktails* book, \$39.95, One French Summer. **9** Concrete tray, \$39.95, and Candle cube, \$29.95, Page Thirty Three. **10** Leather journal, \$59.90, Paper2. **11** *The Moustache Grower's Guide* book, \$12.95, and *Dads Are The Original Hipsters* book, \$18.95, Outliving. **12** Unemployed Philosopher's Guild "Great Moustaches" mug, \$22.95, Outliving. **13** Uashmama pencil case, \$39.95, Paper2. **14** Ridley's dominoes, \$19.95, Opus Design. **15** Royal cards, \$19.95 for set of 2, Opus Design. **16** High Top pencil holder, \$45, The SuperCool. **17** *The Joy Of Cycling* book, \$24.95, Opus Design Co. **18** Bicycle repair kit, \$29.95, Opus Design. **19** Barr Co cream, \$39.95, Opus Design Co. →



2



5



4



3



SALTY GODDESS

THIS PAGE **1** Koyam Anchor Tribe Rosary **ornament**, \$129, A Boy Named Aaron. **2** Shazz bamboo **sunglasses**, \$129.95, Topheads Eyewear. **3** Soludos **shoes** in Navy Stripe Derby, \$55, Collector Store.

OPPOSITE PAGE **4** Limited-edition **print**, \$50, Penheartspaper.

5 Robert Gordon "Anchor" **milk bottle**, \$20, Collector Store.

6 Classic Trilby **hat** in White, \$149, Citta Design. **7** Tmod "Spot A Rip" **mug**, \$15.95, Paper2. **8** Crocheted rubber **bowl** in White, \$69, The Minimalist. **9** Swedish Dream "Seaweed" and "Sea Salt" **soaps**, \$14.95 each, Opus Design Co. **10** Natural wicker **cocktail shaker**, \$54.95, Village Stores.

11 Pendleton **beach towel**, \$90, and The Beach People **towel strap**, \$40, Collector Store. **12** Ocean soy **candle**, \$34.90, Citta Design. **13** Areaware "Sunflower" **vase** in White, \$79.95, Until.

14 Areaware "Knotted Rope" **bowl** in White, \$129.95, Until. **15** Tufted Tile Round Squab **cushion** in Black/Coconut (top), \$29.90, and Tufted Square Squab **cushion** in Clay, \$22.90, Citta Design.

16 Ceramic **pineapple**, \$16, One French Summer. **17** Fresh Cool water **bottle**, \$12, One French Summer. **18** Gypsy crochet **bag**, \$69.95, Village Stores. **19** Izola "Anchor" **purse**, \$40, Collector Store. →

1

2

3



TRAVELLING GYPSY

THIS PAGE 1 Field Notes spiral **book**, \$12.95, Paper2. **2** Coolaroo **synthetic turf** (background), \$28.97 a m (1.87m wide), Bunnings. **3** Chronicle Books "Polaroid" **cards**, \$19.95 for 20, Outliving. **4** Limited-edition Adventure **print**, \$50, Penheartspaper. **OPPOSITE PAGE 5** Travel **journals**, \$24.95 each, Typo. **6** Travel Range **luggage tag**, \$20, Papier D'Amour. **7** Greeting **card**, \$7.50, The Minimalist. **8** Pony Rider "Dark Forest" **cushion cover** in Grey, \$109, Collector Store. **9** Baja Fringe **sandals** in Coral Pink, \$149.95, James Alexander. **10** Letterpressed **print** with wooden frame, \$37.50, Paper2. **11** Leather **cuffs**, from \$24 each, One French Summer. **12** Charlie messenger **bag**, \$375, Convict. **13** Tmod travel **pouch**, \$24.95, Paper2. **14** Tan leather **clutch**, \$120, One French Summer. **15** *Swept Away By Wanderlust* **book**, \$34.99, The Design Hunter. **16** Travel Range **hip flask**, \$55, Papier D'Amour. **17** Lunch **bag** in Olive, \$79, Uashmama. *For stockists, see page 175.* 

FIELD NOTES

80-Page Steno Book
Gregg-Ruled Paper / Durable Materials
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Adventure



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Newport Dove 3 Seater Sofa **\$1,599**, Blossom Modern Rug from **\$149.95**, Carnegie Cushion from **\$22.95**, Luxuria 2 Shade Table Lamp **\$569**, Fitzroy Square Side Table **\$329**, Urban Road Cushion **\$78.95**, Oriental Flower Tea Set **\$39.95**, Decorative Ceramic Bird **\$18.95**. Prices are correct as of 13/10/2014

homes

STYLISH, INSPIRATIONAL, CLEVER

74 **Traditional minimal**

A hint of sparkle adds a festive spirit to this elegant monochrome home

84 **Pink velvet**

Christmas decor is done a bit differently in this pretty pastel apartment

96 **Light on colour**

Keeping things fresh and clutter free are the priorities in this family abode



Easy does it

A fabric panel displaying an image of a Christmas tree sets the tone for this simple home. *Turn the page to see more.* →

Elegant glow

A single tapered candle in a black wire holder sets the tone for Marie Louise's pared-back Christmas decor.

traditional | minimal

A monochrome space with a **hint of sparkle** is the perfect backdrop for this family's Christmas celebrations

Keep it simple

Sweet Christmas treats are joined with the By Lassen "Kubus" copper candleholder on the coffee table. The grey Finn Juhl sofa is an heirloom from Marie Louise's grandfather. ➔

♥ a cluster of mushroom ornaments adds whimsy





2D tree

Fairy lights attached to the fabric tree bring a gentle glimmer to the room. Below it is a pretty pile of gifts. "I enjoy wrapping presents so that they all match," Marie Louise says. →

who lives here?

Fashion designer Marie Louise Brangstrup Schmidt, her husband Jesper, and children Alfa, 6, and Bjørn, 3

Easy tree Normally the family follow tradition carefully, but as they will be visiting relatives for the holidays, they got a printed-fabric "tree" from Ikea, which is a fun alternative to a live tree.

Euro style Marie Louise embraces her European heritage when it comes to Christmas dinner. "My best recipe is to cook a really good duck every year, for at least four hours. Then the whole house smells deliciously of Christmas when the guests arrive."





WHEN YOUR AESTHETIC IS PARED BACK, Christmas decor can take on a somewhat minimalistic leaning. Such is the case for Marie Louise in the old city apartment she shares with her husband Jesper and their children Alfa and Bjørn. "I am not in favour of little Santas and Christmassy landscapes," Marie Louise says. "I would much rather have a single silver star and an abundance of white candles, plus silvery dust on the table with accessories in shades of white, silver and gold."

This approach to decorating extends beyond Christmas and throughout the year with Marie Louise favouring a simple palette and subtle decoration. Over white walls and weathered timber floorboards Marie Louise has layered classic furniture pieces. In the living room, her grandfather's vintage Finn Juhl sofa takes pride of place, while in the dining area it's a marble-topped Saarinen "Tulip" table surrounded by black Eames and Arne Jacobsen chairs, and a refurbished Brazilian rosewood sideboard.

The accessories Marie Louise has decorated with are predominantly monochrome. Crimson pendant lights and flowers in the dining room, plus a mossy green velvet bedspread in the master bedroom, offer some of →

The big countdown

The family's novel take on an advent calendar is a string of numbered heart ornaments with a small present tied to each one.



Home hub

"As a mother of two, I spend a lot of time in the kitchen," Marie Louise says. The space is textural feast for the eyes, finished in whitewashed walls, timber benchtops and stainless-steel storage.



Work space

Marie Louise's studio is done in much the same style as her home, with pale wood floors, white walls and minimal decor.



Scandi chic

Marie Louise's decorating style reflects her sense of fashion: a subdued palette with lots of material texture.



Christmas crystal

New and vintage crystal drinkware, plus some red lilies and glittery pinecones, create a festive scene on the dinner table.

“CHRISTMAS IS MY ABSOLUTE FAVOURITE TRADITION
AND WE DO IT BY THE BOOK: DECORATE THE TREE,
GIVE EACH OTHER AN OPULENT AMOUNT OF
PRESENTS, HAVE A ROAST DINNER AND ALL THAT”

Evergreen

An upholstered bedhead brings casual comfort to the home's master bedroom, while the deep green of the bedspread adds a brush of luxurious colour.





Outdoor arrangement

Festivities extend to the terrace. The upholstered bench was designed by Marie Louise and custom made by a woodworker.



Starry night

The rustic stars in the window give even the bathroom a Christmas vibe, along with the white folded-silk paper tree from Söstrene Grene on the sill. →

Basic black

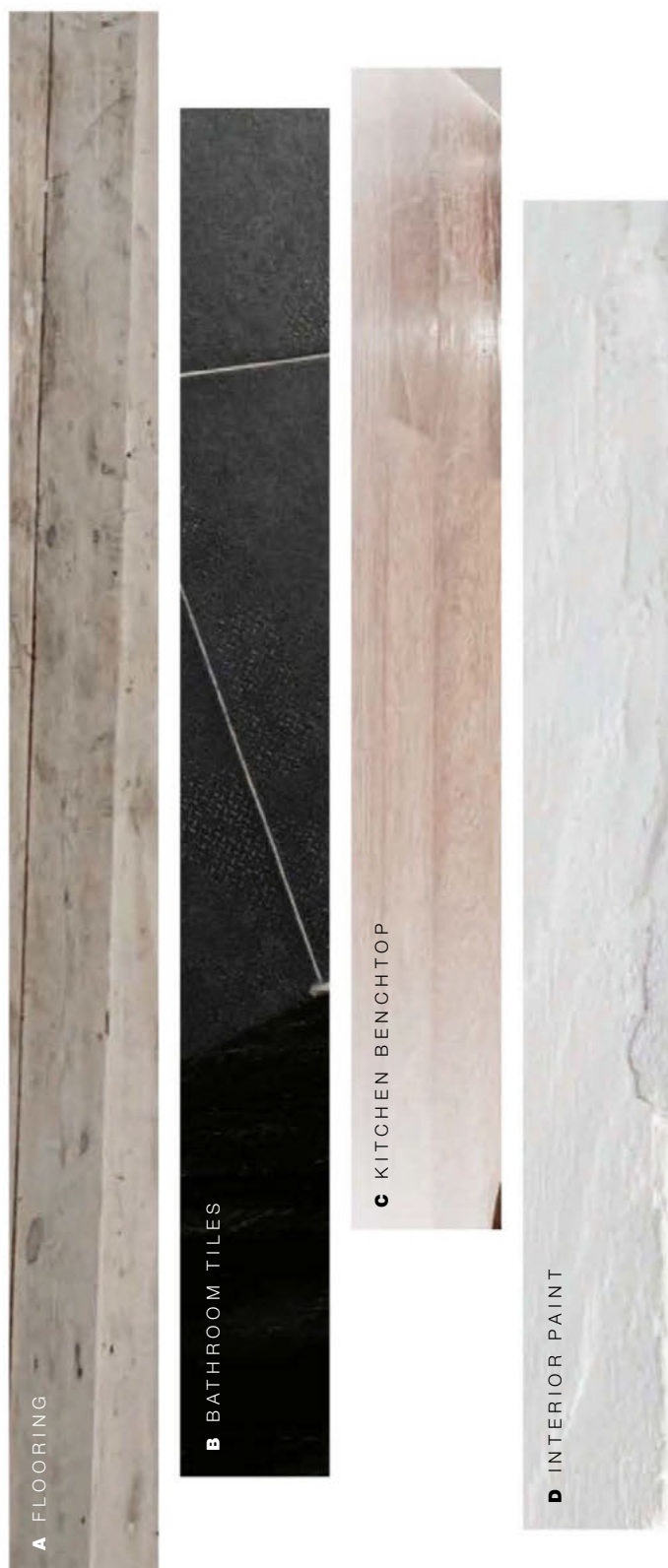
At Christmas, everything is coordinated – even down to matching the giftwrap with the furniture.



the few pops of colour in the home and are a sophisticated nod to the Christmas palette. But for festive decor, it's back to black and white.

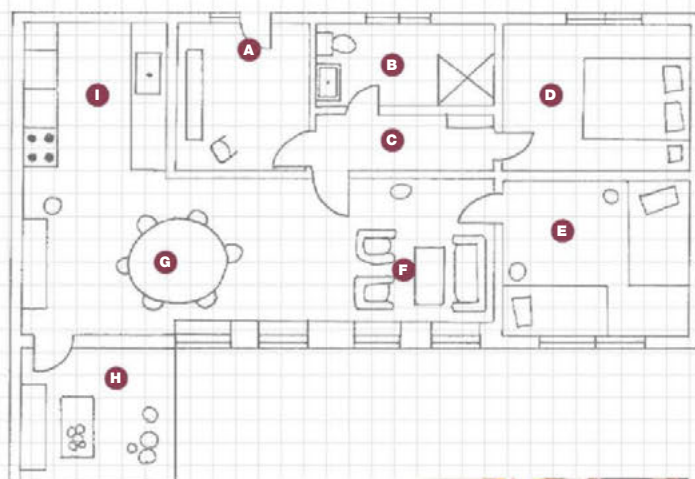
"I have gathered quite a few Christmas decorations over the years, and every year I buy something new to change the look a bit," Marie Louise says. "The most important tradition in our family is that we acquire a new bauble for the tree each year. That said, if it's a Christmas where I am not hosting anyone at our place, I sometimes go for an alternative Christmas tree in lieu of a traditional real one." This year the family will be spending the holidays away so they decided to buy a length of Christmas-tree-printed fabric from Ikea as a background for the fairy lights. "We all thought it could be a fun alternative. Everyone loves it."

When it comes to wrapping the presents, Marie Louise always goes for a scheme to complement her decorations and treats them as festive accessories. "I start buying my presents in November because our family is so large, so the presents lie in the living room for a long time. This way I am able to enjoy them – especially when they're wrapped so nicely." ❖



FINISHES

FLOORING European Oak in **Oslo (A)**, from \$43.39 a sq m, Precision Flooring.
BATHROOM TILES Unique Terrazzo tiles in **Graphite (B)**; 60cm or 40cm), from \$105 a sq m (supply only), Fibonacci Stone. **KITCHEN BENCHTOP** Double laminated European benchtop in **Hickory Maple (C)**, from \$310, Kaboodle Kitchen. **INTERIOR PAINT** Bristol Matt in **White (D)**, \$64.75 for 4L. For stockists, see page 175.



KEY

- A** Entrance
- B** Bathroom
- C** Hallway
- D** Master bedroom
- E** Children's room
- F** Living area
- G** Dining area
- H** Terrace
- I** Kitchen

Eat off the art

Marie Louise sets a festive table with plates designed by her favourite artist, Björn Wiinblad.



Sweet treats

Marie Louise loves to put out traditional European sweets such as nougat and marzipan.

Clever creation

The Brazilian rosewood sideboard had its legs removed and has been mounted on the wall.

Big & bold

Large **Black Lines** art print, \$79, The Minimalist.
50cm x 70cm unframed.

Hanging around

Rope **light** in copper, \$300, Cranmore Home.
3m kit, with lamp holder and ceiling rose.

Star bright

Dazzle Star **ornament**, \$3.90, Citta Design.

MARIE LOUISE'S MOODBOARD

A monochromatic palette with minimalist Scandinavian style, and the occasional touch of lustrous luxury

Made to measure

Dalfréd adjustable **bar stool** in Black, \$69, Ikea.

Smooth as

Kip&Co velvet **quilt cover** in Jade, \$239 for queen, Hunting For George.

Lustrous living

Square **cushion cover** in Anthracite Grey, \$7.95, H&M. 20cm x 20cm.

Wired style

Replica Eames "Eiffel" **side chair** in Chrome Mesh, \$99, Interior Classics.

Upright position

Tray **side table** by Hay in Black, \$295, The Minimalist.
30cm x 30cm x 34cm.

Lights, camera...

Spotlight **table lamp**, \$349, HK Living.

Tuft love

Heron tufted upholstered **bedhead**, from \$1099 for queen, Forty Winks.

Bud & bloom

Mini **vase** in glass, \$2.95, H&M.
7.5cm high.

Cool cube

By Lassen "Kubus 4" copper **candle holder**, \$239, Urban Couture.

PINK VELVET

In this 1920s abode **Christmas decor** comes by way of metallic ornaments, layers of luxurious fabrics and gentle shimmering lights

Deck the halls

This copper star, rescued from a local flea market, turns a simple white chair into an unexpected decoration. Beside it, a branch still full of evergreen needles serves as an extra Christmas tree in Eva-Marie's unique fashion.



Silent white

This corner of the living room, with its pale blue furniture and soft, patterned light, is a tranquil setting for festive reflections. →



who lives here?

Interior decorator, stylist and journalist

Eva-Marie Wilken

Designs combined "To mix things together is in my nature,"

Eva-Marie says. "I have always found it boring when you just follow a recipe. Things need not go in the same context in all houses, there must be room for astonishment, surprises, and the idea of questioning that occurs when you don't quite know whether things are beautiful or not."



Cool combo

Eva-Marie's home is a balance of the colourful and the calm. Here, the entrance accented in pink leads to a space where a stack of concrete slabs, candles and paper stars sit in a wallpapered fireplace.

Bump up the contrast

Eva-Marie's Christmas table is set with heirloom plates from Bing & Grøndahl, placed atop a piece of old pink velvet. A salvaged timber door is a great textural background.

"CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE WARM AND SOFT, it should smell nice and it should definitely sparkle," says Eva-Marie Wilken as she tries to identify the mood created not only by the aesthetic of her home, but also by the sounds, the scents and a feeling of excitement in the air. "The experience you have of a home decorated for Christmas should be reflective of these things." The atmosphere in the old house she calls her own is soft and warm. The house itself smells a bit piney, a bit spicy and a lot like what you expect Christmas to be. Eva-Marie has been a stylist and interior decorator for years, and uses the knowledge gained throughout her career to fill her home with warmth, light and the holiday spirit. →

Time to celebrate

The pastel pink garden room is transformed into a Christmas bazaar, with an old Indian sari spread instead of a tablecloth under a selection of sweet treats, bottles of bubbly and tea.





Sweet as!
Candied dates, gingerbread and
hønningskage (honey cake) are
traditional Danish treats that remind
Eva-Marie of her childhood. →

What it's all about

For Eva-Marie, Christmas is a time to celebrate with traditions. This will be the 14th year she holds a wonderful yuletide party for her close friends.



Light & shade

Black pendant lights punctuate the pale blue kitchen where white subway tiles are finished with dark charcoal grouting.



Sentimental outlook

When it comes to celebrating Christmas Eva-Marie favours things that evoke a sense of family, tradition and the past.



Use your imagination

Anything that catches the stylist's eye can become a designer decoration in this one-of-a-kind interior.



Pretty setting

Eva-Marie loves to mix crockery. The table is set with plates by Royal Copenhagen and Bing & Grøndahl.





In bloom

The magnificent Bloom chandelier by Ferruccio Laviani for Kartell hangs in the stairwell beside a “gallery hang” picture arrangement on the wall.

Blank canvas

Decoration in the bedroom is minimal to ensure the space remains restful. An origami lamp from Studio Snowpuppe is one of the room's few features. →



The setting for this particular Christmas could hardly be more idyllic: a charming old home characterised by abundant pastel colours and a feminine air, but in an unpredictable mix. Asymmetric industrial lamps salvaged from a warehouse hang over the dining table, and a rough branch holds a sheer white curtain, in lieu of a traditional curtain rod. Yet these quirky details somehow blend with the overall tenderness of the space. With her laid-back approach, Eva-Marie has managed to bridge the gap between the traditional and the remarkable, between the gentle and the rough, and between the predictable and the surprising in her home.

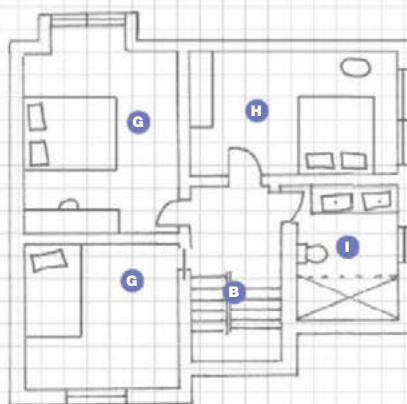
"I like what happens when my fine table settings are joined by a simple candle in a cup, or when my Christmas tree becomes a kind of bulletin board," she says. The tree, a traditional spruce, is adorned with an eclectic collection of small shoes, silver cutlery, mocha cups, and a photo of her great-grandmother. And it's this jumble of paraphernalia, memories and art that really brings the festive spirit to Eva-Marie's home at Christmas. ●



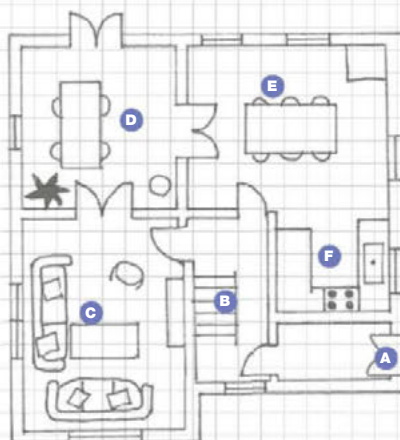
FINISHES

FLOORING American Oak in **Danish White (A)**, from \$102.85 a sq m, Royal Oak Floors. **KITCHEN FLOORING** Damier laminate in **Black & White (B)**, \$53 a sq m (including installation), Gerflor. **SPLASHBACK** Bega tiles in **Gloss White (C)**; 10cm x 20cm, from \$35.50 a sq m (supply only), Amber Tiles. **KITCHEN BENCHTOP** Laminate in **Mystic Cloud (D)**; 60cm x 2.4m, \$199, Kaboodle Kitchen. *For stockists, see page 175.*

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



KEY

- A** Entrance
- B** Stairs
- C** Living area
- D** Formal dining
- E** Dining area
- F** Kitchen
- G** Bedroom
- H** Master bedroom
- I** Bathroom



Under construction

These industrial-looking lights were taken from a construction site and painted for a bit of personality.



A warm welcome
The nostalgic family Christmas tree is a warm and loving alternative to a more ornamental decorative statement.



Fine & dandelion
Ikea PS Maskros pendant lamp.
\$249, Ikea.



Superstar
Lantana Christmas decoration in White,
\$34.90, Citta Designs.
46cm.

Fluttery folds
XL "Moth" pendant lamp in White, \$220, The Minimalist.
40cm x 40cm.

Humble pie
Nordic Tales "Bright Sprout" soaped pendant, \$99, Surrounding. 8cm x 11cm. Globe not included.



In reverse
Cotton velvet cushion cover in Orchid with Natural cotton back, \$44.90, Citta Design. 50cm.

EVA - MARIE'S MOODBOARD

Linen, velvet, cotton and paper in pastel pink and icy blue are teamed with rustic industrial touches

Paper decor
Honeycomb decoration pack in Pink/White Diamond, \$14.95, Typo.



Marble effect
Monday porcelain bowl, \$56, Milly Dent Design.



Vintage chic
FAB50W "Retro" refrigerator with frost-free freezer in White, \$5990, Smeg. 362L fridge with 107L freezer.

Morning bliss
Torg stoneware mugs, in Dark Blue, \$2.99 each, Ikea.



Top of the glass
HK Living 4L glass carafe in Green/Blue, \$59, House Of Orange. 30cm x 19cm x 19cm.

Gradient colour
Dye vase in Blue, \$29.95, Freedom.



This black and white collage features a collection of postcards and family photos, interspersed with letters and drawings; it graces a wall on the ground floor.



Keeping things **fresh, clutter-free** and **calm** at home are the top priorities for this small family

YOU
ARE
MY
SUN
SHINE
MY
ONLY
SUN
SHINE



Railway man

The coffee table in the calm and contemporary living area was made by Guido Hoogwerf using an old railway sleeper. "The effect is nice and rough," Aggy says. "Of course I painted the table white. But the raw texture remains." →



New lease on life

Aggy's grandfather's chest of drawers was sanded back and painted white, to give the beloved heirloom piece a fresh look. The big black Amish barn star was given to her as a gift, and ties in beautifully with the home's decor.



In living memory

Guido's father passed away a few years ago. This little glass memento box contains the clock from his Harley Davidson, and a toy car that he used to play with when he was little.



One of a kind

Aggy saw this old cupboard in a magazine. "I'd just sold the sideboard that used to stand here and thought, 'That's the one!'" So she tracked down the seller and bought it.



Bits & pieces

With a family full of people who love to work with their hands, it's no surprise that these craft corners – complete with paint, brushes, ribbons and more – are dotted throughout the house.

AGGY AND GUIDO HOOGWERF were on the hunt for several years for a home with more space, but their search wasn't proving successful. "None of them really lived up to our expectations," Aggy says. "Then at one of the viewings we got chatting to someone who told us about a house for sale around the corner, so we decided to take a look. Once inside I thought, 'This is it,' so we bought it."

Fast forward seven years and the couple, who have since been joined by their daughter Noor, aged three, have well and truly made the place their own. When they first moved in, the decor was outdated and not to their taste. "The kitchen had a lowered ceiling and a little bar, plus the tiles were a salmon-pink colour," Aggy says. "I saw the opportunities right away, but we weren't in any rush and we took our time with the renovations, doing them ourselves." The first room they tackled was the kitchen, which Aggy wanted to do the most work on. "We moved the kitchen wall a little to make it more spacious, and we left open the upper part of the wall to the living room, which now lets in more daylight." The renovation was quite the operation, just like moving the toilet was, but they didn't mind the work.

While they both like to do things with their hands, it's Aggy who takes charge with the decor. "For a few years I was captivated by the shabby-chic style, but a couple of years ago I switched to a more industrial, Scandinavian look. Now I like a white base, black accents, blonde wood and ever-changing vignettes, which I use to change the atmosphere in the house. The neutral base is perfect for that. →

Stag do

The set of antlers was a present from Guido to Aggy. "I've wanted one for a very long time," she says.

who lives here?

Aggy Hoogwerf, a primary school teacher and lifestyle blogger, her husband Guido and their 3-year-old daughter Noor

Creative team By day she works as a teacher, but in her spare time Aggy's all about interior styling, either in her own home, or on her blog. Her daughter Noor likes to create just as much as her mother does, and has her own workspace.



NO
PLACE
LIKE
HOME

♥
enjoy
the
little
things

The little things

Aggy painted the back wall of her and Guido's bedroom with matte black paint. It serves as a counterpoint to the abundance of white in the rest of the room. The bold cross-printed black and white blanket is organic cotton, by Pia Wallén. →





Upcycled

This cosy corner in the kitchen is the perfect spot for Aggy's thrift-shop table and other lucky finds. The paper sack underneath is 100% recycled kraft paper used mostly for storage.



Diamond in the rough

"The kitchen had a lowered ceiling and a little bar, and the tiles were salmon pink. I could live with it for a while, but it was not my cup of tea. I saw the opportunities right away."



Getting it right

The kitchen now features high-gloss white doors with a black composite counter. Replica Eames chairs sit atop oak floors, brought in to match existing flooring.

"When I add a couple of pastels, spring fills the air. I change things constantly." According to her family, and her own memories, Aggy has always been that way; as a child she refurbished her room over and over again, and now she's sharing her love of styling on her blog – Aggyslifestyle.blogspot.com.

But it's not all about aesthetics; peace and quiet are also high on the agenda. Aggy loves cosiness, but has found her more recent, uncluttered interior style is more peaceful. "I made sure there's plenty of storage room, so I can avoid messiness. I like to come home to a house that's neat and tidy. It makes me feel at ease," Aggy says. The smoothly plastered walls are all painted in pure white, which Aggy has used all around the house, and always has a can at the ready for repainting new acquisitions. The oak flooring in the living room was already there, and the couple bought extra boards for the kitchen to have unity throughout, creating a spacious and calming effect. "We sanded the floorboards and treated them with white and grey washes. The flooring shrinks and grows, but I don't mind because it's a living material."

The largest part of the house has now been tackled. Guido moved walls, plastered, laid tiling, remade doors to the right size and much more, while Aggy painted, sanded, plastered and potted. She roamed shops and online stores looking for any unique finds and furniture for the best price, and remains on the lookout for new discoveries. "I love nice, pretty things. I start thinking of a shelf here, or a little lamp there, then I come across something and think it's perfect to put under my new shelf." And what about moving again? "No, I am always so happy to come home to this house. We're very happy where we are." 📌



Lucky in love

"If we had hired a contractor to do all the renovations, it would have cost a fortune. Luckily, Guido has the Midas touch. And he enjoys creating stuff with his own hands as much as I do." →

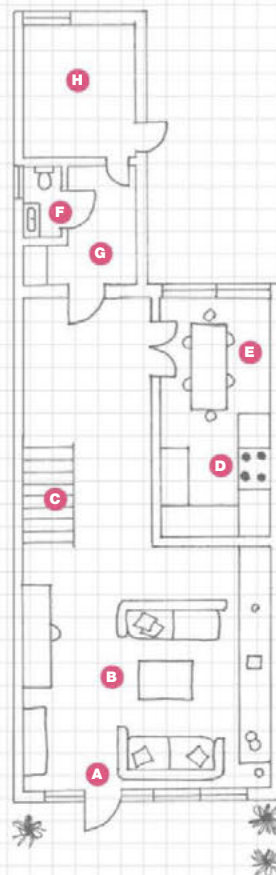


FINISHES

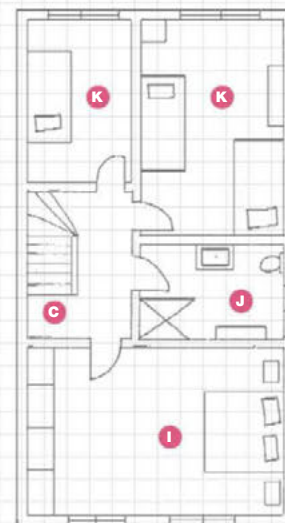
FLOORBOARDS Burnished Gold in **Teak (A)**; 180 x 21 x 2400mm), \$236.50 a sq m, Royal Oak Flooring. **CURTAINS** Sheer linen in **Ivory (B)**, from \$59 each, West Elm. **KITCHEN BENCHTOP** Casablanca in **Black (C)**; 60cm x 2.4m), \$290, Kaboodle Kitchen. **INTERIOR PAINT** Dulux Wash & Wear in **Antique White USA (D)**, \$74.95 for 4L. For stockists, see page 175.

D INTERIOR PAINT

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

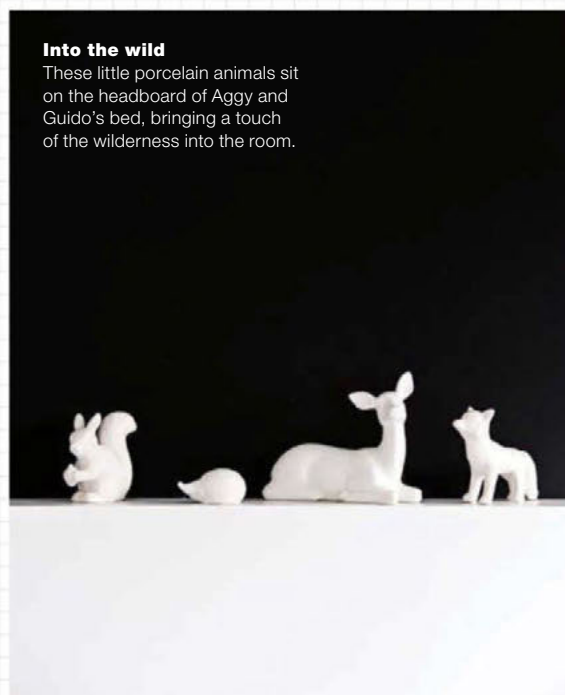


KEY

- A** Entrance
- B** Living room
- C** Stairs
- D** Kitchen
- E** Dining area
- F** WC
- G** Hallway
- H** Storeroom
- I** Master bedroom
- J** Bathroom
- K** Bedroom

Into the wild

These little porcelain animals sit on the headboard of Aggy and Guido's bed, bringing a touch of the wilderness into the room.



YOU
ARE
MY
SUN
SHINE
MY
ONLY
SUN
SHINE



Sunshine

The lyrics on the wall are from the song Aggy sang to Noor while pregnant.



Hi ho, hi ho!

Miners hanging pendant lamp, \$79.95, Cranmore Home. 14cm x 10.5cm with 5m cord.

Loving it
Black Heart art print, \$45, The Minimalist. 40cm x 50cm.



Crossed out

Crosses throw in Smoke, \$149, Aura By Tracie Ellis.



AGGY & GUIDO'S MOODBOARD

Black and white with pops of pretty pastels and rustic timbers give a sleek yet fresh Scandinavian look

So Frenchy

4-drawer "Commode" chest in Antique White, \$1199, La Maison.

Grey matter

Vittoria Luisa 2-Seater Left Arm sofa in Graphite, \$2645, Globe West.

See-through style

Large Golden Glass shadow box, \$99, West Elm.

Boxed in

Capri "Cube" recycled-teak side table, \$565, Globe West. 36cm x 36cm x 46cm.

Bright as yellow

Tjena box with lid in Yellow, \$4.99, Ikea. 27cm x 35cm x 20cm.

Milk bar

Pokal mug in Pink, \$2.99, Ikea.

Guiding light
Mini glass lantern in Silver, \$140, Maison Est.



A movable feast

Moving coffee table in White, \$569, HK Living.

a real living *client name* solution



Nullarbor

Suitable for both modern and classic architecture creating a streamlined, sleek and sophisticated roofline. A flat roof tile that comes in a wide range of colours.



Nouveau

With a unique satin finish, this tile combines durability and striking detail with a depth of colour that will never fade. Ideal for use on modern homes.



Marseille

This classic French-inspired tile is perfect for creating a heritage-style home for a timeless look. Available in a wide range of striking colours.

PERFECTLY *timeless.*

If you want to create a "wow" factor while keeping the environment in check, look no further than **Monier terracotta roof tiles** – they're ultra-stylish and natural

WHETHER YOU'RE renovating or extending your home, you want to choose products that look great but will also stand the test of time. Natural and timeless, Monier's terracotta roof tiles are a sustainable product of long-lasting beauty.

A leader in the roofing industry, Monier's crafted terracotta tiles will keep you comfortable in your home all year round, while helping save money and the environment through energy savings. Select from a diverse, traditional or modern palette of colours and finishes, ranging from simple neutrals to sophisticated tones and matte through to glazed finishes. Both stylish and natural, terracotta is the perfect roofing choice.

Colour contrast

Monier's terracotta tiles don't fade, as the colour is baked onto the surface of the natural clay.



For more information on how the right roof tile makes a world of difference, visit monier.com.au or monierdifference.com.au


Top Cat in Roofing



rooms

108 **Glitter love**

This Christmas, add some shimmer and shine to your home by sprinkling it with sparkling metallics

117 **A simple Christmas**

A couple decorate their home with a subtle palette and versatile decorations that could be used at any time of year

A touch of shimmer

Christmas is the one time of year that you can get away with generous amounts of glitz, glam and glitter! Turn the page to see three sparkling interiors. →



GLITTER LOVE

Add a little (or a lot!) of shimmer and shine to your home this festive season with metallics. Here are **three sparkling spaces** to inspire you...

Sparkle, sparkle

Like a handful of glitter, sprinkle a little metallic love throughout your interiors this Christmas. →



MIX DIFFERENT COPPER FINISHES – POLISHED AND BRUSHED – FOR ADDED INTEREST

Paint it on

If you're struggling to fit a Christmas tree in your living area, why not paint one directly on the wall? It saves on space and looks absolutely fab!

QUEEN OF COPPER

Deck the halls (and the rest of your home, too!) with magic metallics this festive season. After all, red and green stockings and tinsel aren't the only things that scream "Christmas". Metallics, such as copper, lend warmth and elegance to a space, as well as a beautiful shimmer and shine. Here, polished-copper furnishings, such as a floor lamp and wire basket coffee tables, combine with brushed-copper tones and marble for texture and interest. A triangle painted on the wall is a fun take on the traditional Christmas tree and can double as a wall feature all year round. →

All that glitters Studio Pip "Carter" **sofa** in Mokum Coupole Granite, \$5890; HG Furniture Solutions. Scamp **table** with Copper base and Marble top, \$499 for medium (at back), \$899 for large, Blu Dot. Kuta **floor lamp** in Brushed Copper, \$699; BoConcept. **ON SOFA** Exclusive **cushion** in Bronze, \$159, BoConcept. Leather lumbar **cushion** in Metallic Bronze, \$135, Cowhide Rugs Online. **ON TABLES** Lassen "Kubus" **bowl** in Copper, \$550, Menu "Chunk" **candleholders** in Concrete/Copper, \$99 for medium, \$110 for large, and Danish Copper Geometric ceramic **vase**, \$79, Urban Couture. **ON WALL** Porter's Paints in **Liquid Copper**, \$72.80 for 500ml, and Low Sheen Acrylic in **China Doll**, \$100.90 for 4L. **ON FLOOR** Largo Laminate **flooring** in Long Island Oak Light, \$59 a sq m, Quick-Step. Presents wrapped in **assorted wrapping** from Vandoros Fine Packaging. **EVERYWHERE** (this page) Fantasia **glitter** in Copper, \$9.95 for 150g from newsagent. **TYLA WEARS** Parity **dress**, \$595, Zhivago. Stuart Weitzman "Nouveau" **heels**, \$525, Hermanns.

FOR A SOPHISTICATED CHRISTMAS SCHEME WITH A TOUCH OF THE INDUSTRIAL,



Shiny celebrations

A generous peppering of confetti and gold glitter adds to the fun of this glam space.

PAIR COOL SHADES OF GREY WITH WARM GOLDEN TONES

GILDED ROMANCE

Gold and Christmas go together like plum pudding and custard. So, too, does gold and 1920s-inspired interiors. Put them all together and you've got a festive and sophisticated *Gatsby*-esque space. To create drama, incorporate a mixture of opulent textures and surfaces, such as metallic accessories, polished furniture and silky fabrics, with a sophisticated colour palette in grey and gold. A glitzy armchair and coffee table sporting geometric shapes, straight lines and sharp edges reinforce that '20s edgy glam, while a minimalistic Christmas tree made from gold curtain rods looks the part, too. A wild chandelier gives the room a contemporary touch. →

Entertaining space Bank **sofa** in Linen with Brass legs, \$2649, Blu Dot. Elle Eiffel **coffee table** in Brass, \$1490, and Eva **armchair** in Parchment, \$1720, Globe West. Coco rectangular **mirror**, \$627, Vavoom Emporium. Gold **Christmas tree** made from Smart Home curtain rods in Antique Gold, \$41.90 for 305cm length, Bunnings, which we had cut and welded into a tree shape by a professional welder, who charged \$60. Replica Lustre 10-bulb Agnes **chandelier** in Brushed Brass, \$2300, Lucretia Lighting. Lill sheer net **curtains**, \$5.99 a pair, Ikea. **ON SOFA** FROM LEFT Mumo "Leblon Wave Stitch" **cushion** in Gold Pewter, \$183.30, Emily Ziz Style Studio. Glitter **cushion** in Gold/Black, \$69, BoConcept. Mumo "Leblon" **cushion** in Gold Pewter, \$150.80, Emily Ziz Style Studio. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Maxwell & Williams vintage **Champagne flute**, \$39.95 for set of 6, Opus Design. Chandon Brut **sparkling wine** from Dan Murphy's. Discipline "Roule" **tray** in Brass, \$332, Top3 By Design. Ester & Erik "C" **candles** in Gold, from \$18.50 each, Top3 By Design. **ON WALL** Kemra "Tilt Slab" **wallpaper**, \$159.95 for 10m roll (72cm wide), Zanui. **ON FLOOR** Exotico **rug** in Cream (2m x 1.8m), \$2450, Art Hide. Presents wrapped in **assorted wrapping** from Vandoros Fine Packaging. Livyn Essential **flooring** in Cérusé Oak Dark Grey Brown, \$34 a sq m (supply only), Quick-Step. **EVERYWHERE** Exploded **confetti bomb**, \$11.95, Lark. **TYLA WEARS** Lora French Corset **dress**, \$870, Melinda & Narina. Stuart Weitzman "Nouveau" **heels**, \$525, Hermanns.

△ MAKE THIS

Modern muse

Cool concrete-look wallpaper brings this Art-Deco-inspired room into the 21st century, as does the space-age pendant.

△ SOMETIMES BARE
IS BETTER

Take on tradition

Textured linen and natural timber tones make the monochromatic space feel toasty and warm.

SPARKLING SILVER

The traditional Christmas palette of white and green is still very much “in”, but if you throw in a smattering of cool silver accessories, the simple scheme is transformed into something much more sophisticated and special. Paired with whitewashed timber and natural linen, the metallic hue looks ultra-luxe. Here, a splattered cowhide rug and shimmering metallic cushions create striking focal points, while a rustic-timber coffee table offers a warm, inviting element to the otherwise stark palette. Silverware, such as a cocktail shaker or candle snuffer, look lovely displayed in a vignette and, for a hint of tradition, a vibrant-green Christmas tree adds some much-needed freshness. ●

Splash & dash Joe sofa with arms, \$3600, and Joe loveseat, \$2250, MCM House. Woody coffee table, \$715, Soundlike Home. Christmas tree, \$60, Kemps Creek Christmas Tree Farm. Lill sheer net curtains, \$5.99 a pair, Ikea. **ON SOFA** Leather lumbar cushion in Metallic Silver, \$135, Cowhide Rugs Online. Cowhide cushions in Silver Splatter, \$129 each, Table Tonic. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Gents Hardware cocktail shaker, \$39.95, Opus Design. Mossy pine cone branch, \$12, Papier D'Amour. **ON MANTEL** M Marquee light, \$390, Papier D'Amour. **WALL PAINT** Dulux Wash & Wear in Lexicon, \$74.95 for 4L. **ON FLOOR** Brazilian acid wash cowhide rug in Silver, \$799, Zanui. Uashmama metallic paper bag in Silver/Brown, \$99, Table Tonic. Presents wrapped in assorted wrapping from Vandroes Fine Packaging. Largo Laminate flooring in Long Island Oak Light, \$59 a sq m, Quick-Step. **TYLA WEARS** Detached top in Silver, \$225, Kaliver. Premium midi skirt in Embroidered Organza, \$123.58, Asos. Scorcher heels, \$139.95, Skin Footwear. For stockists, see page 175.

Present play

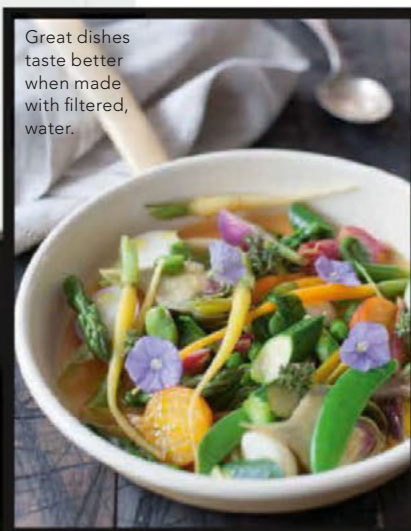
Wrap presents to match your interior colour scheme, but play around with the textures and patterns of the paper and ribbon.





"Quality recipes require quality ingredients, that's why cooking is better with BRITA."

MasterChef's Gary Mehigan uses the BRITA 3-Way Filter Tap at home.



Great dishes taste better when made with filtered water.



BRITA 3-Way Filter Tap

- Stylish European design
- Cost effective, easy to install
- Innovative 3-Way Tap allows filtered or unfiltered water
- Filter-change reminder
- Kit includes water filter, all components and a BRITA 3-Way Filter Tap

FRESH FLAVOURS, PURE STYLE

For a touch of European elegance in your kitchen, choose a stylish **BRITA 3-Way Filter Tap** – you'll get good looks and top-quality water

CLEANER. CLEARER. BETTER.

In any modern kitchen, having fresh, filtered water of the highest quality at your fingertips is so important – whether you're cooking, entertaining or simply brewing yourself a cuppa. Just ask restaurateur and MasterChef judge Gary Mehigan, who has a BRITA 3-Way Filter Tap at home. "It gives a cleaner, fresher flavour that improves the taste, aroma and quality of water, tea and coffee."

THE BRITA KITCHEN ADVANTAGE

With a BRITA 3-Way Filter Tap you get instant access to filtered water. And it's so easy to install and use;

there's no need to drill into your benchtop – it simply replaces your existing tap. With one lever for filtered water and another for unfiltered hot/cold, you'll have filtered water whenever you need it most.

SEASONED WITH EUROPEAN STYLE

An elegant built-in BRITA 3-Way Filter Tap adds a wonderfully European touch to your kitchen. The filter is tucked from view beneath the sink to provide filtered water for six months, a convenient sensor lets you know when it's time to replace – with easy to change filters available from all good hardware and electrical stores.

VISIT BETTERWITHBRITA.COM FOR EXCLUSIVE GARY MEHIGAN RECIPES, VIDEOS AND EBOOK.

Brighten up your home



Bristol Easyliving Interior's extensive colour palette creates bright, vibrant interiors that lights up the mood of every Australian home.

For a better finish, **begin at Bristol.**

Visit www.bristol.com.au for your nearest stockist. Not available at Masters or Bunnings.





A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

A Dutch couple add subtle decorations to the rooms in their home, enhancing their **chic but neutral** style

Fitting in

A small reindeer atop cowhides and a Christmas-tree-like lamp work with the natural, uncluttered feel in this Amsterdam home. It's possible to inject a festive vibe without the glitz and glitter. ➤



Swing time

Homeowner Anna had special beams installed in the apartment to attach a hanging chair; it's perfect for relaxing with a Christmas drink in hand.



style tip: match your Christmas colour scheme to your interior palette for an elegant and sophisticated look

Starting point

"We go with white as much as possible, and see what fits in after that," Anna says of her colour choices. The combination of white walls, soft grey cabinetry and timber floors inspired the couple's subtle Christmas decorating touches.



who lives here?

Anna van den Boogert and Robert Nan. lola-kate.nl

Flight of fancy “The butterfly boxes on the wall in the living area are ones I design under the name of Lola & Kate – it’s a hobby that’s grown out of hand,” Anna says. Her online store, which she co-founded with a friend, also sells framed ornamental feathers and mounted eggs.

Birds of a feather “I use feathers from all over the world,” Anna says of her “floating frames” – double-paned glass frames with feathers between the panes. “From Ibiza, for example, or feathers from friends who hunt in Scotland.”

THERE'S NO PLACE like (Christmas at) home – and Anna van den Boogert and her partner Robert Nan are in the throes of enjoying a sociable festive season in their 1930s Amsterdam property. “The door is open for everyone – we want our home to feel like a warm and cosy welcome,” Anna says.

UNIQUE STYLE The couple have incorporated subtle and unusual decorations in the rooms in their home, fitting in with their relaxed and neutral decorating style. A small reindeer, a tree-shape light and a Tom Dixon copper candle are a sweet and unobtrusive nod to the season.

SECRET SANTA When Anna and Robert first moved into the 80-sq-m home two years ago, they had it renovated – and included a few surprises. “The best thing about this house is the secret alcove where our bedroom is,” Anna reveals. “You walk along one long wall, and at the end is a bathroom, then a walk-in closet, and suddenly you find yourself in our bedroom.”

KITCHEN GIFT Anna designed a new open-plan kitchen/dining area, with Robert helping a tradesman pour the concrete →

Celebrate at home

Robert and Anna have already spent a couple of Christmases in the 1930s canal-side home they bought two years ago.



Mood lighting

Even a solitary candle will transform a room into a celebratory space, especially if it's in a gold candleholder – adding a splash of sparkle. Anna framed the feathers.



style tip: display a few homewares in gold; the metallic splash is sometimes all you need to create a sense of occasion



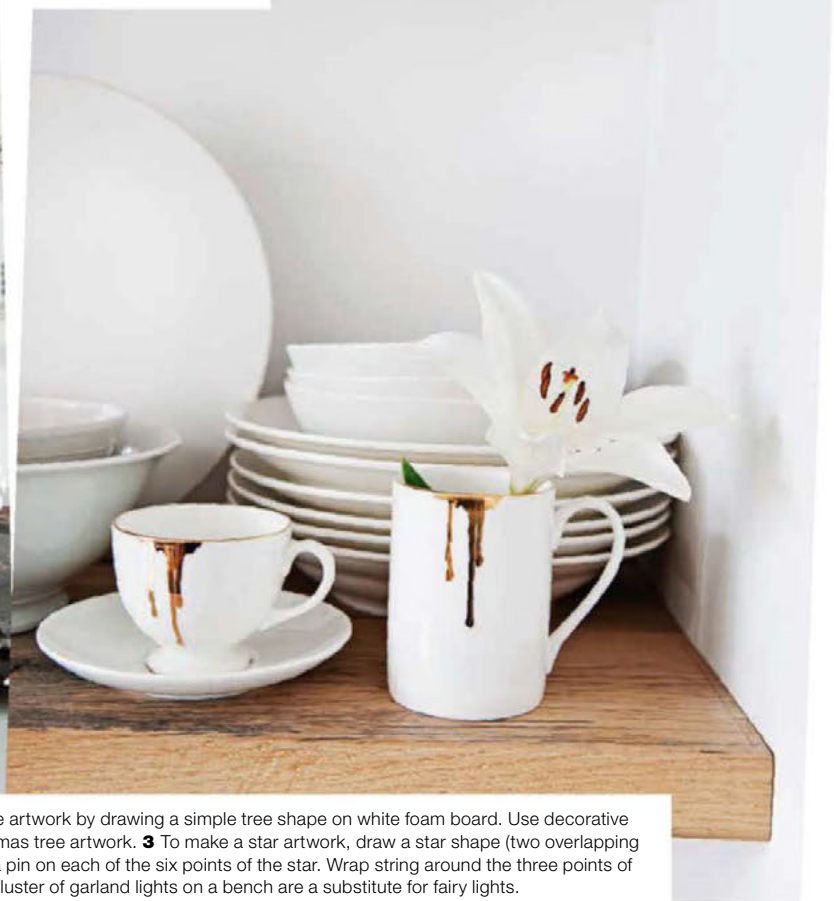
Guilty pleasures

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Russian nesting dolls in white make a quirky centrepiece on the coffee table; crystal glasses and decanters are both an attractive display and at the ready for festive tipples; Hay scissors in gold are too gorgeous to tuck away after present wrapping so are displayed on a tray with other beautiful things; an Eclectic by Tom Dixon candle is all that's needed for a festive flicker. →

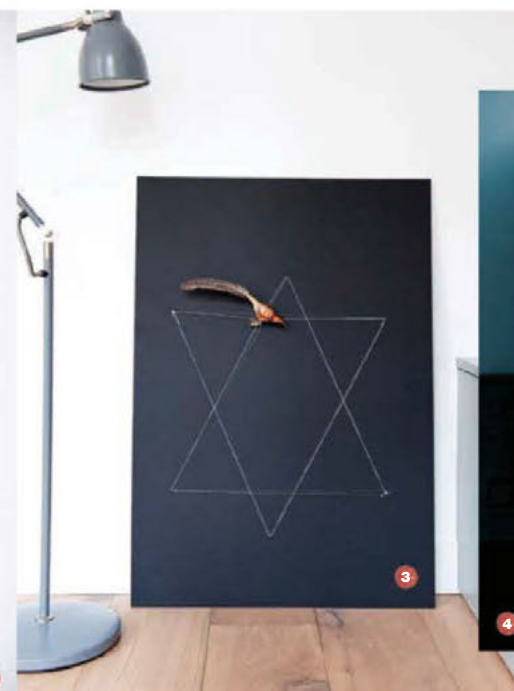




Special touches
 LEFT A bell jar is transformed into a beautiful lamp, with a tinted light bulb in continuing the theme of gold notes around the home. A second bell jar is filled with large clear light bulbs for a unique display.
 RIGHT The Reiko Kaneko "Drip Tease" china in gold is perfect for the Christmas brunch table setting.



Tinsel-free ideas (below) FROM LEFT **1** Make a Christmas tree artwork by drawing a simple tree shape on white foam board. Use decorative pins to attach buttons over the outline. **2** A close-up of Anna's Christmas tree artwork. **3** To make a star artwork, draw a star shape (two overlapping triangles; one upside-down) on a piece of black foam board. Insert a pin on each of the six points of the star. Wrap string around the three points of each triangle a few times. Add a decorative bird! **4** A cluster of garland lights on a bench are a substitute for fairy lights.



style tip: place candles in unexpected places for a surprising touch



Turkey with trimmings

Cooking up a Christmas feast is no problem for Anna and Robert with their black Smeg oven – it complements concrete benchtops and oak flooring.

countertop. “They took a gamble and made a mould of reinforced concrete – and it worked!” Anna says. An open fireplace was designed at counter height, so the couple could use it for cooking. “Robert loves cooking intricate meals, and with its warm, cosy atmosphere, the kitchen is ideal for dinner parties,” Anna continues. “The kitchen could have been a bit more luxurious but we ran out of money,” she adds. “But it’s

a lovely, functional room.”

Oak flooring adds a chic feel.

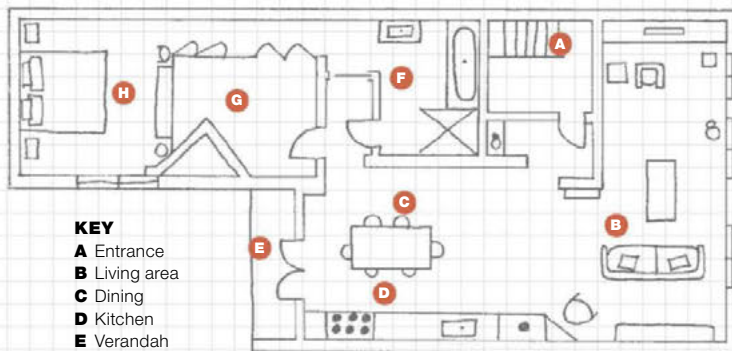
PRESENT LOOK “Furnishing and decorating this place never stops,” Anna confesses. “It’s an organic process. We’re trying for a combination of clean, Scandinavian atmosphere versus a rugged French appearance.” Delightful touches in the home are collections of framed butterflies and feathers by Anna, a hobby that has resulted in an online store, Lola & Kate. →



style tip: twist and drape fabric and attach above the bed for a soft, romantic touch

Christmas past

Presents unwrapped, tummies full, too much excitement – and it's time to climb between fresh linen sheets for a blissful night's sleep.



KEY

- A Entrance
- B Living area
- C Dining
- D Kitchen
- E Verandah
- F Bathroom
- G Wardrobe
- H Bedroom



Model bathroom

A new bath was top of Anna's wishlist in the revamped bathroom. Pics of supermodels on the toilet and in the tub add a humorous touch.

bell jar containing six butterflies was a gift from Anna's six best friends when she finished her studies. As well as Anna's "collections of curiosities", pieces from Robert's grandfather are dotted around the house. "He was a dealer in English antiques, and bought a lot from old castles," Anna says.

STREET PARTY The couple don't just love their new home; they are completely enamoured with their neighbourhood. "We love it here," Anna concurs. "In the summer we sit on the front steps with a glass of wine while tourists stroll by and Amsterdammers nose around, looking for a nice restaurant. Everyone here knows each other. The swans swimming on the canal make it all feel like a fairy tale." It's a charming home in a charming neighbourhood. For the couple it could quite possibly feel like Christmas all year round. ❶



KITCHEN

- 1. BENCHTOP** 50mm-thick raw concrete, from \$800 a linear m, Concretebenchtops.com
- 2. FLOORING** Hardwood Plus G5 1-strip timber in Tasmanian Oak, from \$98 for 2130mm x 136mm x 13.5mm (supply only), Choices Flooring.
- 3. CABINETRY** Colour Palette panel in Fossil, from \$94.60 a sq m (not including installation and fabrication), Laminex.
- 4. KETTLE** Le Creuset traditional kettle in Satin Black, \$129, Kitchenwaredirect.com.au



DINING

- 1. CHAIR** Modernist dining chair in White, \$119, Dare Gallery.
- 2. WINDOW** For similar, try second-hand 6-pane casement window with clear glass (1850mm x 1830mm), \$1200, Balmain Restorations.
- 3. CHAIR** No.18 Thonet chair in Walnut Finish, \$220, Thonet.
- 4. DINING TABLE** For similar, try Bjursta extendable table in Brown/Black (175mm-260mm x 95mm x 74mm), \$299, Ikea.



LIVING

- 1. FLOOR LAMP** Aröd floor/reading lamp in Grey (1.8m), \$99, Ikea.
- 2. ARMCHAIR** For similar, try Carl Hansen & Son "Safari" chair, from \$3047, Cult.
- 3. STOOL** Bekväm step stool in Black, \$19.99, Ikea.
- 4. WALL PAINT** Porter's Paints Eggshell Acrylic in Stonecutter's Grey (2012), \$95.10 for 4L.

A WHOLE HOUSE PALETTE AT A GLANCE

ANNA & ROBERT'S CHIC PAD



BATHROOM

- 1. BENCHTOP** For similar, try Caesarstone "Supernatural Designs" in Piatra Grey, \$750 a sq m (installed), Caesarstone.
- 2. FLOOR TILES** Naturals floor tiles in Cool Grey (300 x 300mm), \$29.65 a sq m, Beaumont Tiles.
- 3. TOWEL** For similar, try Grandeur "Classic" bath towel in Cream, \$20, Target.
- 4. BATH TAP** Porcher "Quatre" lever wall bath set, \$128.99, Reece.



BEDROOM

- 1. PILLOW** For similar, try French linen pillowcase with Oxford edge, \$54, Missmolly.com.au
- 2. BEDLINEN** Linen duvet in Natural, \$295 for king, Weylandts.
- 3. CURTAINS** Aberdeen blackout eyelet curtain in Oatmeal (1.4m x 2.3m), \$49.95, Freedom.
- 4. WALL PAINT** Haymes Interior Expressions in Bond White, \$69.95 for 4L. For stockists, see page 175.



Hands up!
Manikin hand in Wood, \$19.95, Cotton On.

Swing by
Hanging rattan chair in Natural, \$399, HK Living.

Practical style
Hemnes bedside table in Black/Brown, \$99, Ikea. 46cm x 35cm.

Soy wax
Apothecary candle in Lime/Basil/Mandarin/Amber, \$35 for small, Plain & Simple.

{ START THE YEAR IN THE MANNER TO WHICH
YOU'D LIKE TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED. }

Superior Gold's

SUPERIOR GOLD HOT SMOKED SALMON, TOMATO & CHILLI PASTRIES

Makes 25 ♦ Preparation Time: 30 mins ♦ Cooking Time: 15 mins

185g Superior Gold Hot Smoked Salmon
Natural (includes sauce sachet)
1 sheet of ready made puff pastry
1 egg yolk
200g celeriac, peeled
1/2 cup green olives, finely sliced
2 tbs mayonnaise
1 bunch chervil, half chopped

1. Preheat oven to 190°C.
Cut pastry into 5cm x 5cm squares.
Brush pastry with egg. Place squares
onto a lined tray. Bake for 15 mins.

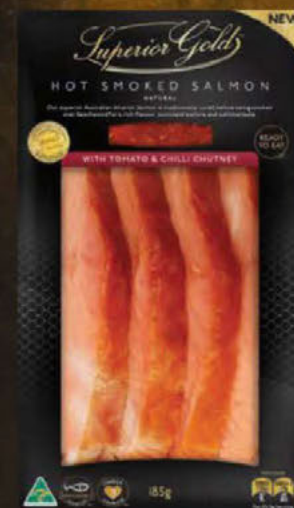
2. Remove skin from the salmon, break
salmon into flakes. Mix the Superior Gold
Hot Smoked Salmon sauce sachet of
tomato chilli chutney through the flakes.
Set aside.

3. Peel celeriac. Using a mandolin or
cutting by hand, cut celeriac into fine
batons. Mix with olives, mayonnaise and
1/4 cup of chervil.

4. To serve, top puff pastry squares with
salmon flakes. Place on celeriac salad and
garnish with chervil.

THERE'S SALMON. THEN THERE'S SUPERIOR SALMON.

For superiorly delicious recipes go to superiorgold.com.au



Now available
in leading supermarkets

eat

FRESH, AFFORDABLE, DELICIOUS!

128 **Christmas on the road**

Take a drive to find the perfect spot to plonk your rug for a summery Christmas picnic

141 **Take the cake!**

The most beautiful cakes you've ever seen are easier to make than you might think

Picnic to boot

Food. Tick! Beers. Tick! Picnic rug. Tick! Pack the car and hit the road for a Christmas picnic outdoors. Pimm's and Bombay Sapphire gin from Dan Murphy's. Turn the page to see our fun festive feast. →

christmas On the

A few musos from Tigertown (the coolest band around) took to the road with their pals for a **festive feast with all the trimmings...**

checklist

wheels
tunes &
coolers
cats

ice
sunnies
trees

guitars
picnic rug
drinks

kats



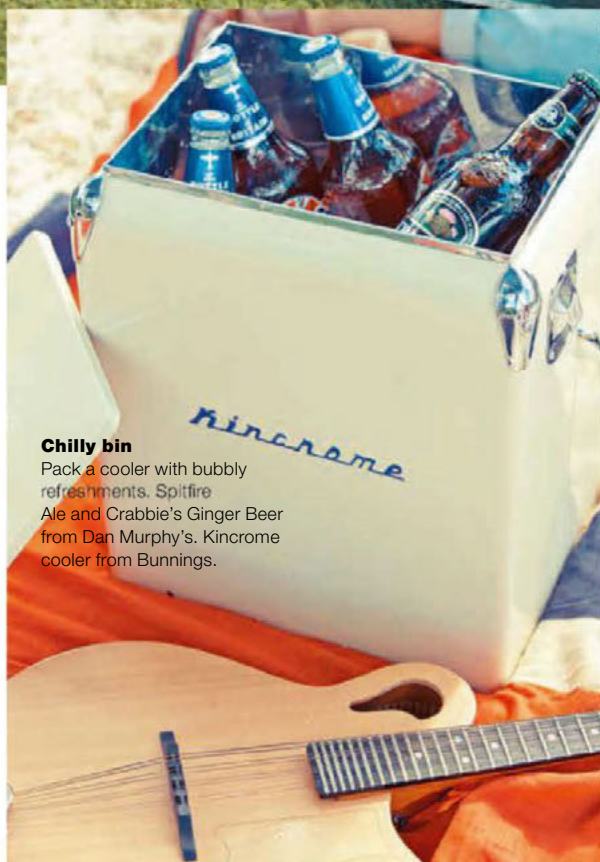
road

**Musical interlude**

From left, Crystal, Alex, Elodie, Charlie and Jake find the perfect spot to unpack their Christmas picnic. Vintage suitcases from Seasonal Concepts and Doug Up On Bourke. →

Perfect patch

Scatter large floor cushions for a relaxed feel. Union Jack cushion and Butterfly chair from Coco Republic. Stool from Seasonal Concepts.



Chilly bin

Pack a cooler with bubbly refreshments. Spitfire Ale and Crabbie's Ginger Beer from Dan Murphy's. Kincrome cooler from Bunnings.

Pepita & kale stuffed turkey breast

Serves 8 to 12

Prep time 40 mins

Cooking time 1 hr 30 mins

Equipment Sharp knife; chopping board; large frying pan; tongs; food processor; kitchen spoon; cooking twine; baking dish; foil

1 x 1.8kg turkey breast, butterflied

60g butter

1½ tbsp olive oil

1 onion, chopped

1 garlic clove, minced

½ bunch kale, chopped roughly

1 tbsp thyme leaves

200g brioche

¾ cup pepitas, toasted

Sea salt & cracked black pepper

30g butter, melted

1 Remove turkey from fridge 1 hr prior to cooking. Preheat oven to 190°C (170°C fan).

2 Place frying pan on medium heat. Add butter, olive oil and onion; cook for 3 mins until translucent.

Add garlic, kale and thyme; cook for 5 mins until kale has wilted. Remove from heat and let cool completely.

3 Place brioche in food processor and pulse to form chunky crumbs. Add kale mixture and pulse to combine. Stir through pepitas.

4 Lay turkey on chopping board skin-side down. Season with salt and pepper. Press stuffing into breast and fold over to encase. Tie with twine to hold together while cooking.

5 Place turkey on baking dish, pour over melted butter and rub over skin. Cover with foil and roast for 35 mins. Remove foil and roast for a further 50 mins until just cooked through.

6 Remove from oven and rest for 15 mins. If eating at home, serve sliced turkey with cooking juices. (If you want to take the turkey on the road, wrap it in foil and pack it in a cooler – it tastes great cold! Slice just before serving.)



Lemon, pepper, snow pea & almond salad

Serves 8

Prep time 12 mins

Cooking time 10 mins

Equipment Sharp knife; chopping board; zester; large saucepan; baking tray; colander; large mixing bowl; kitchen spoon

Sea salt flakes

½ cup slivered almonds

750g snow peas, trimmed

1½ tsp sugar

2 tbsp lemon juice

2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

2 eschalots, chopped finely

¼ tsp white pepper

1½ tbsp lemon pepper seasoning

250g snow pea sprouts, trimmed

1 tbsp lemon zest

1 Preheat oven to 190°C (170°C fan). Bring large saucepan of salted water to the boil.

2 Place almonds on baking tray and toast in oven for 10 mins. Remove from oven and allow to cool before chopping roughly.

3 Blanch snow peas in boiling water for 1 min until bright green but still crisp. Drain and rinse under cold water to stop the cooking process.

4 Place sugar and lemon juice in large mixing bowl; stir to dissolve sugar. Add extra-virgin oil, eschalots, pepper, lemon pepper seasoning, snow peas and snow pea sprouts and a pinch of salt; stir to combine.

5 Sprinkle salad with almonds, and lemon zest, and serve. (If taking on the road, take dressing separately and toss through the salad just before serving.) →

Retro road trip

Mix and match servingware that will last the bumpy journey. Floral tablecloth from Doug Up On Bourke. White House bowl from Domayne. Jar from Rainy Sunday.



Drinks list

Crabbie's ginger beer
Spitfire Ale
Bombay Sapphire gin
Pimm's



Pack it up

A rustic timber crate protects glasses and servingware. The wooden packing crate and metal trunk are both from Doug Up On Bourke.

Summer Sunshine cocktail

In a large mixing bowl, pour 3 cups pineapple juice, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Malibu liqueur, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup vodka, 2 cups coconut water, 2 cups soda water and 3 cups ice. Stir with a spoon to combine. Ladle cocktail mixture evenly into 8 glasses. Add 2 lime wedges to each glass and serve with a straw. Mini pineapples on skewers are the perfect summery garnish. →

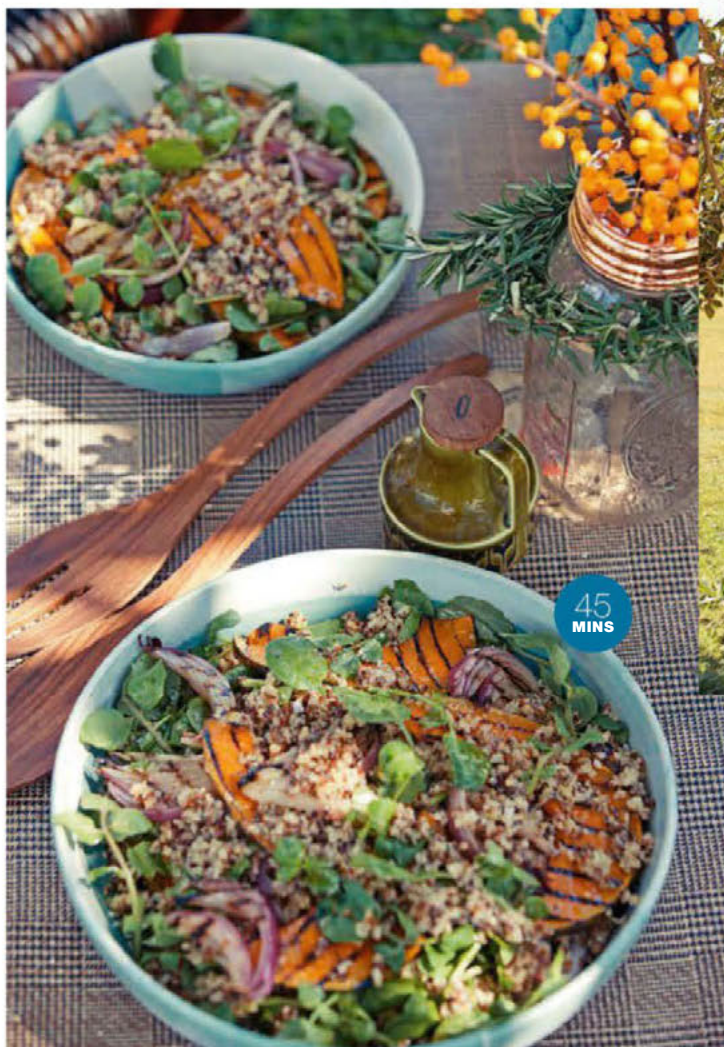
Fruity fun

A jar carrier makes transporting easy. Jars and jar carrier from Rainy Sunday. Christmas tags from The Minimalist.

Roll up, roll up

Use a strip of newspaper to hold your rolls together – it looks cute, too. Estate Oval serving plate from Domayne. Palm Tree knives from Dear September.

1
HR



BBQ prawn rolls with green mango slaw

Makes 8

Prep time 25 mins
+ 30 mins marinating
Cooking time 5 mins

Equipment Fine grater; sharp knife; chopping board; medium & large mixing bowls; cling wrap; BBQ or chargrill pan; kitchen spoon; tongs; bread knife; butter knife

- 32 medium green prawns, shelled & deveined
- 1 tbsp finely grated ginger
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tbsp peanut or vegetable oil
- Sea salt & ground white pepper
- 2 tbsp fish sauce
- 2 tsp palm sugar
- 2 tbsp lime juice
- 2 green mangoes, seeds & skin removed, julienned
- ½ a small red cabbage, shredded
- 1 carrot, julienned

- 4 spring onions, sliced diagonally
- ½ bunch mint leaves
- 1 bunch coriander leaves
- 2 long red chillies, seeds removed, chopped finely
- 8 bread rolls
- ¾ cup whole-egg mayonnaise

- 1 **Place** prawns, ginger and garlic in medium mixing bowl. Drizzle with oil and season with salt and pepper; toss. Cover with cling wrap and refrigerate for 30 mins to marinate.
- 2 **Preheat** BBQ or chargrill pan over high heat.
- 3 **Place** fish sauce, palm sugar and lime juice in large mixing bowl; stir until sugar dissolves. Add mangoes, cabbage, carrot, spring onions, mint, coriander and chilli; toss to combine.
- 4 **Cook** prawns on BBQ for 1 min on each side until just cooked.
- 5 **Cut** rolls in half almost all the way through. Spread with mayonnaise, top with slaw and prawns, and serve. (If taking on the road, keep the slaw and prawns chilled and assemble rolls at the picnic).

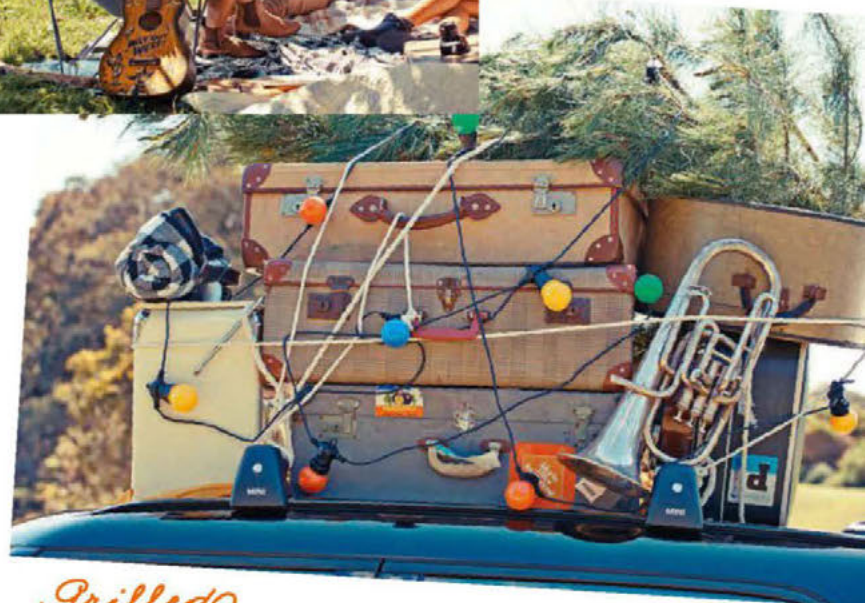


Lazy days (left)

Set your picnic up under a tree for the right balance of sunshine and shade.

Far left A summery salad with a yummy charred flavour. Stockholm salad servers from Ikea. Bowls from Koskela.

Below Everything is packed securely on top of the car roof – including the Christmas tree! The lights are from Bunnings.



Grilled pumpkin, quinoa & cress salad

Serves 8

Prep time 15 mins
Cooking time 30 mins

Equipment Sharp knife; chopping board; saucepan; 2 large mixing bowls; BBQ or chargrill pan; tongs

- 1½ cups quinoa
- 5 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 2 tsp sugar
- Sea salt & cracked black pepper
- 1kg Jap pumpkin, skin washed, seeds removed, cut into thin slices
- 2 red onions, peeled & cut into thin wedges
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 bunch watercress, washed, trimmed & chopped roughly

- 1 **Cook** quinoa in saucepan according to packet instructions.
- 2 **Combine** extra-virgin olive oil, vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper in large mixing bowl. Pour half of the dressing into small bowl for later.
- 3 **Add** cooked quinoa to bowl with dressing; toss to combine. Cool.
- 4 **Preheat** BBQ or chargrill pan over medium-high heat. Place pumpkin and onions in large mixing bowl and drizzle with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper; toss to coat.
- 5 **Cook** pumpkin and onions for 3 mins on each side until tender. Add to bowl with quinoa and watercress, drizzle with remaining dressing and gently toss to coat. Serve. (If taking on the road, cool pumpkin and onions before adding to the quinoa and watercress. Alternatively, cook on a portable BBQ on-site.) →



Nice wheels

The Mini Countryman Cooper S is packed full of picnic needs – instruments and all!

Top From left: Alex, Elodie, Charlie, Crystal and Jake tuck into their festive feast.

White Christmas Ice-creams

Makes 8

Prep time 40 mins

Cooking time 10 mins

+ freezing overnight

Equipment Medium saucepan; whisk; 2 large mixing bowls; kitchen spoon; 8 x ½-cup capacity ice-block moulds; paddlepop sticks; small saucepan; lined baking tray; microwave-safe jug

1½ cups milk

1½ cups thickened cream

⅓ cup bourbon

¼ tsp ground nutmeg

1 vanilla bean, seeded

4 egg yolks

⅔ cup caster sugar

200g white chocolate

1½ tbsp coconut oil

100g milk chocolate

⅓ cup freeze-dried pomegranate seeds (buy at Morlife.com, \$8.95 for 80g)

- 1 Place** milk, cream, bourbon, nutmeg, vanilla seeds and pod in saucepan over medium-high heat; bring to a simmer. Whisk egg yolks and sugar together in large mixing bowl until pale and creamy.
- 2 Pour** half the milk mixture over yolks, whisking until combined. Add remaining milk, whisk and return to saucepan. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring for around 8 mins until mixture has thickened slightly.
- 3 Remove** from heat and pour into large bowl. Cool to room temperature.
- 4 Remove** vanilla bean and pour into ice-block moulds; freeze for 1 hr. Insert sticks into the centre of each ice-cream and freeze overnight.
- 5 Place** white chocolate and coconut oil in small saucepan over low heat until just melted; stir to combine. Remove from heat and cool.
- 6 Dip** one ice-cream at a time into white chocolate. Place on lined tray in freezer, and repeat with remaining.
- 7 Place** milk chocolate in jug. Melt in microwave for 2 mins, stirring every 60 secs until just melted.
- 8 Drizzle** milk chocolate over each ice-cream using spoon, then dot with pomegranate seeds. Return to freezer to set, then serve. (If taking on the road, transport ice-creams in an airtight container packed in ice.) →

1+
HRS



Lounging around

Good music, great friends and delicious food make for a fun Christmas picnic. Now all that's left to do is have a kip on the grass. ●

A woman is lying on her back on a patterned blanket on a grassy lawn. She is wearing a dress with a geometric pattern and dark boots. Her legs are bent and raised in the air. An accordion is lying on the blanket near her feet. The scene is set outdoors on a sunny day with some fallen leaves on the grass.

Time
for
siesta

coles
Finest

DISCOVER THE STORY BEHIND
**OUR 12 MONTH MATURED
VINTAGE PUDDING**



Mr & Mr Puddings on NSW's Central Coast don't mind being called old fashioned. It's the reason they win so many awards. They take pride in crafting their handmade puddings the traditional way, using 100 per cent Australian vine fruit, local free range eggs, Australian butter and a splash of oak barrel aged Barossa Valley brandy. Each pudding is wrapped in calico, boiled in coppers then hung for a period of maturing. It's a method as old as the hills but as its makers like to say, the proof is in their pudding.

Only at **coles**

Take the

Christmas, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries or “just because” – April Carter shares three of her **sublimely decorated & crafted cakes** for every occasion

Cake

**Bake me a cake**

There's no doubt that cakes are a joy to create and an absolute pleasure to eat. Turn the page for a few more recipes to add to your repertoire. →



SIMPLE STORE CUPBOARD CHOCOLATE CAKE

Serves 12 to 14

Prep time 25 mins + assembly

Cooking time 1 hr + cooling

Equipment Kettle; small bowl; fork; 2 x 18cm-round, deep cake tins; baking paper; 2 medium & 2 large mixing bowls; whisk; electric mixer; sieve; spatula; skewer; wire rack; bread knife; cake stand or board; palette knife

110g cocoa powder
1½ tsp vanilla extract
180ml boiling water
260g unsalted butter
225g caster sugar
225g brown sugar
6 eggs, beaten lightly
420g plain flour
4 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
270ml milk
Chocolate buttercream
375g unsalted butter
4 cups pure icing sugar
1 cup cocoa powder
150ml double cream

1 Preheat oven to 170°C (150°C fan). Grease cake tins and line bases with baking paper.

2 Place cocoa, vanilla extract and boiling water in medium bowl. Whisk to combine and set aside to cool.

3 Place butter and sugars in large bowl. Beat with electric mixer for 3 to 4 mins until pale and creamy.

4 Add beaten eggs to sugar mixture a little at a time, beating after each addition until well incorporated. Add cocoa mixture; beat well to combine.

5 Sift flour, baking powder and salt into separate medium bowl. Add ¼ of the flour mixture to the cocoa mixture and beat until just combined. Add half of the milk and continue to beat, scraping down the sides.

6 Add another third of the flour and the remaining milk; beat to combine. Add the remaining flour; beat again.

7 Divide mixture evenly between prepared cake tins. Bake cakes in oven for 50 to 60 mins, or until a skewer inserted into the centre of each cake comes out clean. Allow cakes to cool for 10 mins before

removing from tin. Turn onto wire rack to cool completely.

8 Make buttercream Place butter in large mixing bowl and beat with electric mixer until pale and creamy. Add icing sugar, cocoa and cream, and beat for a further 2 to 3 mins until smooth.

9 Assemble Cut off domed tops of cakes with bread knife. Cut each cake in half horizontally so that you have four layers in total. Fix the bottom layer to cake stand or board with some buttercream. Working one layer at a time, spread an even layer of buttercream in between each layer of cake using palette knife. Cover cake with a very thin layer of buttercream (this is called the “crumb coat”) and refrigerate for 30 mins. Once firm, cover with remaining buttercream. Top with a sparkler and celebrate!

CRYSTALLISED ROSEMARY

MAKE the rosemary syrup for the cake and the crystallised rosemary for decorating before you begin the cake. **LINE** a baking tray with baking paper. Grab the rosemary syrup (recipe below) plus 50 grams of caster sugar. **TAKE** enough rosemary sprigs to make a halo around the top of the cake, bend the stalks to make a curve, and dip into the syrup. **SPRINKLE** the rosemary sprigs with caster sugar, then set aside to dry on the tray for a few hours or even overnight.



APPLE, PARSNIP & ROSEMARY SYRUP CAKE

Serves 12 to 14

Prep time 25 mins + assembly

Cooking time 50 mins + cooling

Equipment Vegetable peeler; grater; 2 x 15cm-round, deep cake tins; baking paper; electric mixer & 2 mixing bowls; sieve; spatula; skewer; wire rack; saucepan; kitchen spoon; bread knife; cake stand or board; pastry brush; palette knife

Rosemary syrup

125g caster sugar

250ml cold water

2 sprigs rosemary

Cake

320g unsalted butter, melted & cooled

320g brown sugar

4 eggs

2½ cups plain flour

2 tsp bicarb soda

1 tsp ground cinnamon

Pinch of salt

100g parsnip, peeled & grated

200g apple, peeled & grated

1 tbsp finely chopped rosemary

Cinnamon buttercream

125g unsalted butter

1½ cups pure icing sugar

2 tsp ground cinnamon

50ml double cream

Crystallised rosemary, to decorate

1 Make syrup Place sugar, cold water and rosemary in saucepan over low heat. Bring to a simmer and stir until sugar has dissolved. Remove from heat, set aside to cool, then discard rosemary. Make crystallised rosemary (see instructions above).

2 Preheat oven to 170°C (150°C fan). Grease cake tins and line bases with baking paper.

3 Place butter, sugar and eggs in large bowl. Beat with electric mixer for 2 to 3 mins until pale.

4 Sift flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt into medium bowl. Add flour mixture to butter mixture and beat to combine.

5 Add parsnip, apple and rosemary and fold to combine.

6 Divide mixture evenly between the 2 prepared cake tins. Bake for

40 to 50 mins, or until a skewer inserted into the centre of each cake comes out clean. Allow cakes to cool for 10 mins before removing from tin. Turn onto wire rack to cool completely.

7 Make buttercream Place butter in medium bowl and beat with electric mixer for 3 to 4 mins until pale and creamy. Add icing sugar, cinnamon and cream and beat for a further 2 to 3 mins until smooth.

8 Assemble Cut off domed tops of cakes with bread knife. Cut each cake in half horizontally so that you have 4 layers in total. Fix the bottom layer to cake stand or board with some buttercream. Brush with syrup and spread with some buttercream using palette knife. Repeat with remaining layers. Top cake with a layer of buttercream and a wreath of crystallised rosemary. →



STALKS AND WHORLS OF FRAGRANT LAVENDER
LEND A DELICATE FLAVOUR TO THIS
SIMPLE CAKE, THEIR COMFORTING

APPEAL ECHOED THROUGH THE PALE PURPLE

BLUSH IN THE ICING



Sweet tooth

Can't get enough of these show-stopping cakes? Check out more of April Carter's recipes in her book **Decorated** (Hardie Grant, \$39.95). It's a feast for the eyes and tastebuds!

LAVENDER LAYER CAKE

Serves 12 to 14

Prep time 25 mins + assembly

Cooking time 40 mins + cooling

Equipment Small saucepan; sieve; small jug; 15cm round, deep cake tin; 20cm round, deep cake tin; stand mixer or electric mixer; 2 large mixing bowls; spatula; skewer; wire rack; cake stand or board; palette knife

180ml full-cream milk
3 tsp dried lavender
180g unsalted butter
340g caster sugar
3 medium eggs, lightly beaten
260g white spelt flour
1½ tsp baking powder
Pinch of salt

Buttercream

90g unsalted butter
140g pure icing sugar
2 tbsp double cream
Purple gel food colouring

1 Pour milk and lavender into a saucepan and gently heat to simmering for 2 to 3 mins. Remove from heat and set aside to cool. Once cool, strain through a sieve into a jug to remove dried lavender.

2 Preheat oven to 170°C (150°C fan). Grease cake tins and line bases with baking paper. Using a stand mixer or electric hand mixer, beat butter and sugar for 3 to 4 mins until pale and fluffy. Beat in eggs a little at a time, beating until incorporated.

3 Sift flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl. Add a third of the flour mixture (reserving the rest) to the butter mixture and beat until just combined. Pour in half the lavender-infused milk, continuing to beat, then add another third of the flour mixture, the remaining milk, then the remaining flour mixture. Mix until well combined.

4 Spoon the same depth of mixture into each of the tins. Bake in oven for 35 to 40 mins, or until a skewer inserted into the centre of each cake comes out

clean. Allow cakes to cool for 10 mins in their tins, then turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

5 Make buttercream Use a stand mixer or electric hand mixer to beat butter for 3 to 4 mins until pale and creamy. Add sugar and cream, with a very small amount of purple food colouring, and continue to beat for 2 to 3 mins until smooth.

6 Fix the 20cm cake to a cake board or stand with a small amount of buttercream, and spread top with two thirds of the buttercream. Place the 15cm cake on top, press down gently and spread top with remaining buttercream. Scatter over some extra dried lavender and decorate with fresh flowers **7**



CUT THE CAKE
Use the free **viewa** app and scan this page to see how to cut a cake horizontally.



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LOVE YOUR OUTSIDE SPACE, TOO!

148 **Garden party**

Why not host your celebrations outside this year? We've called in the experts to give you three creative table-setting ideas

Christmas greenery

The traditional green sprig of Christmas holly has been reinterpreted with an olive branch. Gold-painted olives add to the festive vibe. →



The Midas touch

Stephanie adds texture by layering oatmeal linens onto a timber table, and tidies up the look with gold-rimmed white plates and brass cutlery.



Self portrait

Melbourne stylist,
photographer and designer
Stephanie Somebody.

CELEBRATE

Set the stage for a **celebration to remember** with these striking outdoor table settings by three of our favourite stylists

RUSTIC CHARM

STEPHANIE SOMEBODY

A combination of Australian and Mediterranean cultures transforms this Christmas table setting into a sophisticated, rustic delight by the multitalented Stephanie Somebody. "I was inspired by the generosity of Christmas when I was a kid, mixing cultures for a European twist," Stephanie says. The starting point was the olive foliage, which Stephanie used down the centre of the table and hung as a wreath on the corrugated iron wall. "You can create a natural centrepiece with whatever foliage you have available in your backyard. Olives are fruiting in the summer and are the perfect decorative touch," she says. "I always start a table setting with the foliage or flowers and select what is just coming into season for something a little more special." With these in place she selected a neutral palette to complement the green, painting some of the olives gold. "Neutral linen and timber anchor the whole look and pops of gold add a festive touch," she says. To make these olive wreaths for your next celebration, use a wire wreath frame for a large wreath and small olive branches, bent and secured with twine, for smaller ones. Stephaniesomebody.com →

Mediterranean moment

A thicket of olive foliage makes for a delightfully rustic setting. Fine tapered candles needle their way through.



Pass it on

For shared meals, don't be afraid to layer your plates. Try an entree plate or bowl on top of a main plate with a patterned napkin in between. "It's practical and adds fullness to the table," Marie says. "And don't be afraid to mismatch."



SANGRIA AND SUN

MARIE DE VERA @ THE STYLE COMPANY

A heady obsession with cake and sangria was the defining inspiration for this decadent, indulgent feast by Marie de Vera and her team, who specialise in event and wedding planning and styling. "The cakes were our centrepieces – but we added Spanish flavour with rich florals against lots of greenery, berries, pomegranates, timber, crisp whites and a hint of gold," Marie says. A rich, warm palette of reds, orange and hot pink cradle this inviting setting, which, Marie adds, "is supposed to look messy, much like our lunches at home after the first two courses". Rather than have a "perfectly set" table, Marie liked the idea of casually stacked plates and cutlery, which, on top of the flowers and foliage, creates a plentiful and practical setting. Thestyleco.com.au →

Fruit and berries

To adopt this style into your festive spread, make like Marie and add fruit and berries to your centrepiece to create texture and a fresh summery aura.

**Lush greenery (above)**

Marie, at right, extends her styling above and behind the table setting with hanging foliage.



**A beautiful mess**

"We wanted a look that reminded us of an indulgent outdoor lunch, away from the city, with friends, food and lots of sangria," Marie says. Steering clear of "casual" dining, she also suggests clothing the outdoor table and using the "good" crockery.



MAKE THIS CAKE!
Use the free **viewa** app and scan this page to get a classic sponge cake recipe



Colour scheme (right)

Consider your food and drinks menu when selecting the colour palette of your setting. Plates can also be laced with finishing touches from the garden.

Cut to fit (below)

Think outside the square. Beautiful handmade paper can be used as a table runner.



Setting the scene

Heidi, pictured, also has a wonderful way with balloons, as you can see from the wall decor.



Fine details (left)

Heidi's style goes above and beyond. Here, cocktails are beautifully garnished with delicate edible flowers.

GROWN-UP GLITTER

HEIDI GILL @ THE BESPOKERY

When styling a table setting during the festive season, it's hard not to give in to the overstock of decorations in the Christmas aisles. "I wanted to create a sophisticated, summer entertaining scene that was celebratory, without going down the regular seasonal decor road," says Sydney stylist Heidi Gill, whose company The Bepokery specialises in everything from corporate events to product launches. And this is it. A paradise for grown-ups. Not a cliché in sight. Heidi has successfully created clever variations on festive elements like bonbons, which she tied together to make a chandelier – also very easy to make yourself. "You could even fill your own bonbons, so long as you keep the contents thoughtful and interesting," she adds. Personal place settings, considerate small details, textures and finishes – all the way down to the delicate colours of the food – developed by Claire Dickson-Smith, make this an engaging outdoor setting for guests. Heidi built this idea on a monochrome palette of black and white with pale lettuce green, neutral soft greys and a little golden glitter. "I looked to marbled textures, and explored contemporary ways to decorate with this old-world finish," she says. Thebespokery.com.au 🍷

Scale to size

If you want to recreate this look for a larger cocktail gathering, Heidi says to drop the amount of place settings and seating, and instead add occasional stools and serve food in small vessels that can be hand-held. You can also free up space by using flowers en masse in one location, rather than at place settings.



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happy christmas xx

front door decor

fairy lights

christmas tree

flowers

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Faux American pine tree,
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GET YOUR TECHNIQUE RIGHT!

christmas decor hit list

Interior design expert **Jacinta Preston** reveals her secrets to great decorating

HARK! It's time to say hello to the silly season – and decorating the house for Christmas is all about one direction. You need to **pick a theme and stick to it!** Start with the Christmas tree, then carry your theme or colour through the house and into the garden. Remember, for any special event you want to be over the top, theatrical and magical – it's all about creating an experience of festive enchantment. If you do nothing else, focus on our short decor hit list – it's like a little road map to decorative heaven.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE For most us, the tree is the centre of all things Christmas-y. It's either traditional or modern and **anything goes.**

It's your canvas, so make sure it's a good one. It has to fit your overall theme and your space. Don't worry if you don't have much space, there are plenty of flat-pack and poster trees available.

FRONT DOOR A Christmas **wreath** on the front door is a warm and festive welcome to your home. They're available in many different styles, or make your own – it's a great craft activity for the kids.

MANTELPIECE MAGIC The mantelpiece is a natural little stage, so it's the perfect place for a Christmas vignette. It's most likely out of reach of kids, so this is where you can display the really

good stuff – crystal, mirrors, ornaments, candles... Or **decorate with all your favourite pieces,** from antlers and feathers to Christmas cards and kids' toys (reindeer toys, polar bears anyone?). And don't forget to hang the kids' stockings.

TABLESCAPE Table trimming is also about creating-the-experience decorating. Mix old and new decorations for character and warmth. Flowers are a stunning addition to the table – **single stems or small posies** look pretty in glass jars, beakers and crystal vases. Foliage also works – twigs, rosemary, holly – or gather up all your **candles** and candlesticks and place them down the table's centre. A cluster of Christmas **ornaments in a vessel** or vase is also a simple way to create a stylish table setting. And shiny mirror tiles, used as a tray or base, "double" the amount of decorations or flowers.

GARDEN LIGHTS When the sun goes down a garden looks beautiful and festive with twinkling lights, from a **humble string of fairy lights** to a complete front-of-house extravaganza. When choosing Christmas lights, think about the mood you're trying to create. If you don't want to win the local council **Christmas lights competition,** keep it simple – just go warm white. Pure joy! ☺





White pine **tree**, height 197cm, \$78,
Neon candy tree **ornament pack**,
\$15, Large Neon Pink **reindeer**, \$12
Small Neon Pink **reindeer**, \$5,
Cupcake **ornament** 2 pack, \$2.50.

*It's beginning to feel
a lot like Christmas
at BIG W*

the ultimate gift-giving guide for

CHRISTMAS

The *real living* team have come up with the ultimate **BIG W** Christmas wishlist.
Here are the top picks for your Santa sacks this year...



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this year – pair with a white
tree for maximum impact.

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1

Peter Morrissey cream cable knit
throw (Available in Silver), \$39,
House & Home **cushion**, \$14.

2

Peter Morrissey **sandals**, Black
with metallic Gold trim, \$30.
(Sizes 6-11).

3

Etc tealight **candles**,
set of 6, \$10.

10

Nordic fabric
napkins, 4 pack, \$8.

Delonghi Red Icona
toaster, \$98.

5

4

Jamie Oliver **bruschetta**
board \$12, Jamie Oliver
cheeseboard with knife, \$19.

6

Mambo ladies
thongs \$15, other
colours available.

9

Peter Morrissey **cami**,
\$20, **shorts**, \$20.
(Available in Pink and
Black, sizes 8-16).

FUJIFILM Instax Mini
8 camera, \$98.
(Available in 5
colours see in store).

7

"A perfect gift for
mums and sisters."

8

Truly Gifted Italian
oil & vinegar set, \$19.

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Striped **beach umbrella**, \$29.



Corelle **dinner set** in Ruby Red, 16 piece, \$59.



The Big Pack, includes 2 x king size **towels** and 1 x **bathmat**, \$20. (Also available in Teal and Taupe).

Home by Peter Morrissey Porto **bath towel**, \$22, **hand towel**, \$9, **face washer**, \$6. (Also available in Charcoal).

FOR HOME

Add some stylish touches
to your home for Christmas



Salad **server set**, \$5.



Small acrylic **bowl** in Green, \$2. (Available in Orange, Purple and Blue).



Geo print **beach chair**, \$19.



Truly Gifted **herb & spice set** – includes selection of 12 herbs and spices, \$19.



Red **candles**, 3 pack, \$12.



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hoe \$6, shovel, \$6, rake \$6.

Nude by Nature Blissfully
Bronzed **beauty gift set**, \$49.



Emerson ladies flower **sandals**,
\$15. (Sizes 6-11).

FOR HER

Peppa Pig **campervan
playset**, \$60.



Emerson ladies casual
slip-ons, \$12 (sizes 6-10).

Bonds mens active boost lo cut
socks, 3 pack (Size 6-10 & 11-14), \$14.
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2 pack (Size 6-10 & 11-14), \$14.



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USE YOUR REWARD POINTS

One of the smartest things to buy with frequent flyer points is a **gift voucher** from stores like David Jones, Myer and JB Hi-Fi. Gift vouchers are worth more after Christmas when sales kick in, too. According to Mozo.com.au, the best card for the typical user delivering an annual net value of almost **\$300** is the American Express Velocity Escape Card.

NEVER PAY FOR SHIPPING

Be organised and order early so you can use free shipping deals from retailers. According to Finder.com.au/free-shipping, there are **188 free shipping offers**. Also, most retailers have free shipping if you **spend a certain amount** in one transaction, so don't forget to **read the fine print** before you start shopping online.

PARCEL FORWARDING Found a great bargain online but just realised they don't ship to Australia? No worries – you can "parcel-forward" it with one of the many parcel-forwarding websites in operation. They'll provide you with a **US address** to enter when you make a purchase. Your goods will be **shipped there** and they will then **forward** it to your **address in Australia**. Some of the sites that you can use to shop from American websites include Goopping.com, Hopshopgo.com, Myus.com, Parceliton.com.au and Reship.com. If it's a UK site you're interested in buying from, Forward2me.com and Skypax.com both offer a forwarding service from the UK to Australia. Compare the costs and try it out with a relatively cheap item first to test the service.

EFFIE SAYS

Do's and don'ts
Money magazine's **Effie Zahos**
on the best ways to shop

CHRISTMAS SPENDING!

GET YOUR PLASTIC READY In the three months leading up to Christmas last year, we spent a massive **\$72.2 billion on credit cards**. According to the Finder.com.au Christmas Debt Survey, of those that did use their cards, almost 200,000 will still be **paying off this debt in 2015**. Make sure you have the best card for your spending needs over Christmas. For instance, if you're buying from overseas sites, you'll need a card that doesn't charge you a **foreign transaction fee** of up to 3.65% every time you spend in another currency. The Aussie Home Loans low-rate platinum card, Bankwest's platinum MasterCards (Breeze, More and Zero) and GE Money 28 Degrees MasterCard skip this fee. If you want to start your shopping early, you'll need a card that comes with a generous number of **interest-free days**. Coles and People's Choice Credit Union both offer a 62-day interest-free credit card. Just be sure to pay it off in time as interest rates can be steep. ☛

LOOK FOR DISCOUNT CODES The best way to grab a bargain online is to do a quick **internet search** for the website you're shopping on. Although it might increase the number of emails you receive, it's also worthwhile **subscribing** to your favourite website's **newsletter** to notify you of upcoming sales and discount codes.



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cool STUFF

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TOP ROW FROM LEFT Easycraft Enhancing both contemporary and traditional interiors, Easycraft's range of decorative wall and ceiling panels enable individual styling for every room; Easycraft.com.au **De Bortoli** With eight different wines available nationally, the Deen Vat Series offers a range of top notch wines for little more than the "small notes" in your wallet (\$12.90); DeBortoli.com.au **Monier** roof tiles are now available in a comprehensive palette of colours that work perfectly with contemporary Australian architecture; Monier.com.au **2ND ROW Twinings** New Camomile & Spiced Apple from the Fruit & Herbal Infusions range is a delicate and soothing blend, pairing a subtle floral taste with cinnamon and cardamom; Twinings.com.au **Superior Gold** is a premium new range of smoked salmon that's great for every entertaining occasion. Available in leading supermarkets; www.superiorgold.com.au **3RD ROW Petaluma** For the perfect match with alfresco dining choose Petaluma White Label Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc or Pinot Gris. Available from fine wine retailers; Petaluma.com.au **Haier's** HTD635WISS 635L French Door Refrigerator has heaps of shelving space – great for Christmas platters! 24/7 Customer Care. RRP \$2099; Haier.com.au **Domayne** Bring an extra touch of sparkle and style to your home this festive season with Domayne's range of cool Christmas trees; Domayne.com.au **BOTTOM ROW Howards Storage World** The Allure Deluxe Jewellery Chest, \$82.95, is part of the wide range of jewellery organisers available at Hsw.com.au **Harvey Norman** Elegant and ontrend, check out the Broodie floor and table lamp, and the Zamfo table lamp at Harveynorman.com.au **Matt Blatt's** Replica Arne Vodder Cabinet is classically styled and brilliantly versatile; Mattblatt.com.au



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TOP ROW FROM LEFT Driftwood **star** (30cm x 3.5cm), \$24.95, Amalfi. Christmas **bauble**, \$3, Spotlight. Kroby **floor uplighter** (1.805m high), \$29.99, Ikea. **MIDDLE ROW** FROM RIGHT Coco 3.5-seat **sofa** in Mystere Peacock, from \$2999, OZ Design Furniture. Elle Cube coffee **table** (1.3m x 65cm x 36cm), \$910, Globe West. **BOTTOM ROW** FROM LEFT Timber hexagon **shelves** (from 34cm diameter), \$199.95 for set of 3, Zanui. Fishscales **pot** in Emerald (12cm high), \$18, Have You Met Miss Jones. Dulux Wash & Wear **paint** in Shallow Sea, \$89.45 for 4L. *For stockists, see page 175.* ©

The Art of White Label

by

floral artist Aleksandra Schutz



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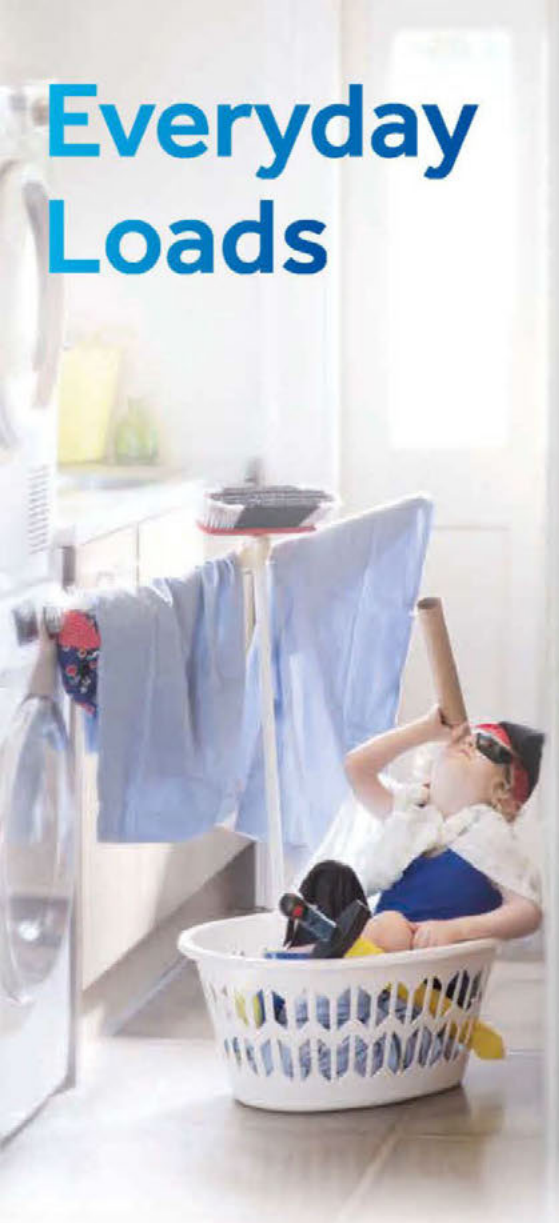
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super-duper products for
your home and lifestyle



TOP ROW FROM LEFT **Zanui** The Maja Dark Grey 3-seater sofa exudes '60s-mod charisma, offering your living space an eye-catching feature. \$699; Zanui.com.au
Lipton's new Yellow Label specialty teas are made with naturally pressed tea leaves for a richer cup. In all supermarkets; Lipton.com.au **Décor** self-watering pots have
a built-in waterwell® allowing plants to take just the right amount of moisture they need. Perfect for herbs. From \$14.99; Decor.com.au **BOTTOM ROW** **UGG Australia**
This handcrafted Oversized Knit Blanket in Natural is made with a luxuriously soft wool blend for the kind of comfort you'll never want to live without! Uggaustralia.com
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